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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

October 18th—24th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 42

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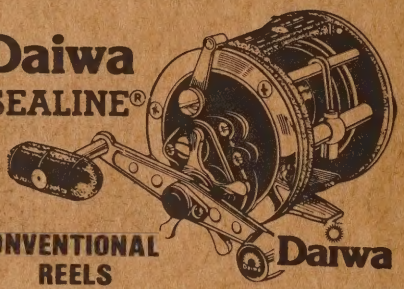

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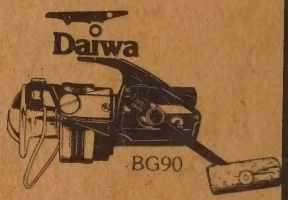

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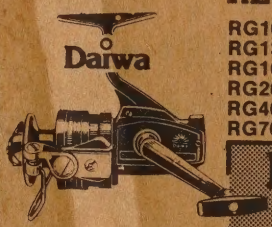

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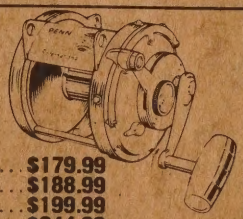

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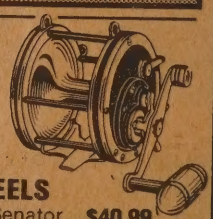

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 42 October 18th, 1984

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Blackfishing around much of the Island has gotten off to a fast start this fall. Here, Marty Garrell shows a 7½ lb. tautog he boated off of Mulford Point. You'll find feature articles concerning "Mr. Bulldog" on page 10 and 18 of this week's issue. Cover photo by Garrell.

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GREG NISITO NAMED SALESMAN OF THE YEAR

In recognition of his outstanding sales performance, Greg Nisito has been named Salesman of the Year by Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Company.

Greg has been with Shakespeare for five years. In his current position of District Sales Manager, Greg is responsible for sales and distribution in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York.

Greg obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the State University of New York at Oneonta. He was a wife, Dolores, and a daughter, Diana.

Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Company is located in Columbia, South Carolina and manufactures complete lines of fishing rods, reels, line and electric trolling motors.

CAPT. JOHN SEKORA NAMED SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Captain John Sekora, 76, who for many years, chartered his "Easy Rider" out of Montauk and in 1966 developed the umbrella rig and the tube lure, has been named as sportsman of the year by Edelman's, Farmingdale. Using super-strong hooks specially made by Wright and McGill and a vast variety of fish catching colors, the tube lure/umbrella rig combination has caused a fish catching bonanza for anglers. Captain Sekora was awarded Edelman's "Sportsman of the Year" trophy.

ROMEO SETS BLACK BASS RECORD

On September 3, 1984, 26-year-old Dave Romeo established a potential International Game Fish Association world record for the greatest number of largemouth bass taken on hook and line by one angler over the course of a single season.

Fishing in the early afternoon on the Town of Brookhaven's Kahler's Pond, Mr. Romeo used a night crawler bait to take his 2,000th bass this year. Following a brief photo session, the 9½ inch fish was released unharmed, as were the majority of fish Mr. Romeo landed this year.

While there was no previous record of this nature, Mr. Romeo worked closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the International Game Fish Association to ensure that useful and accurate records were maintained. It took Mr. Romeo 51 days to reach the 2,000 plateau. He averaged 14 hours of fishing each day, taking bass from several Long Island bodies of water including the Peconic River, Wantagh Lake, and Lower Yaphank Lake.

Mr. Romeo is employed as a corporate tax consultant by Reed Roberts Associates of Uniondale, New York. He was aided in his quest to enter the record books by Causeway Bait and Tackle Shop of Wantagh, N.Y., which provided live killies for bait; Garan's Sport Shop of Merrick, N.Y., which provided Daiwa Tackle service and repairs, and Creative Wildlife Taxidermist of Mastic, N.Y., which will mount the largest bass taken by Mr. Romeo this season.

The Long Island largemouth bass season continues through March 15th, but Mr. Romeo intends to fish regularly only until October 31st in an attempt to break the 3,000 bass mark. His current total as of September 28th, is 2536 bass in 62 days of fishing! —**Tom Schlichter**

NEW HOME STUDY KIT PERMITS BOATERS TO STUDY AT HOME FOR COAST GUARD LICENSE

Boaters can now study to earn or upgrade their Coast Guard license at home, at their convenience, with a new self-paced home study course called the Exam-Prep Kit.

Produced and marketed by Houston Marine Training Services, the nation's largest Coast Guard examination preparation school, the Exam-Prep Kit includes everything required to study for, and pass the Coast Guard test, according to T. Brantley Houston, Jr., president of the suburban New Orleans school.

The Exam-Prep Kit includes all the texts, made-easy regulations, study guides and aides, sample tests and other materials for several licenses including Uninspected Passenger Vessel Operator (formerly Motorboat Operator) and Operator of Small Passenger Vessels.

Houston pointed out that federal law requires a license for anyone who occasionally accepts compensation for use of his boat such as that paid by friends to share fishing trip expenses or the businessman entertaining clients on his yacht.

"We realize," said Houston, "that most pleasure boaters and sports fishermen will never require more than one or two Coast Guard licenses so our objective is to teach the subject matter that is on the Coast Guard exam to the depth and scope that it is on the exam. No more and no less."

Houston said the Exam-Prep Kits are the results of years of experience gained by Houston Marine in successfully training over 17,000 students who have earned or upgraded their Coast Guard licenses since 1972.

Once the student has completed the Exam-Prep home study course, he or she can take the appropriate test at the nearest Coast Guard examination center.

Houston said the availability of the

kit now will permit those in colder areas to remain involved in boating during the winter and earn their licenses at a more convenient time.

Further information can be obtained by calling one of Houston's toll free numbers, 1-800-535-8803 for those outside Louisiana, and 1-800-922-8868 for those in Louisiana.

BAY SHORE TUNA CLUB SPONSORING COD TOURNEY

The Bay Shore Tuna Club having won the all clubs Annual Invitational Codfish Tournament in 1983 is sponsoring the tournament this year. The winning club sponsors the following year's affair.

The date is Saturday, November 17, 1984, with an alternate date of Sunday, November 18, 1984.

Club teams only, consisting of up to four boats or less per team, are eligible and the number of teams is unlimited.

Entry deadline is November 3, 1984 and can be confirmed by check or call: Peter Nowinski, (516) 665-0618. The fee of $60 per boat is payable to: Bay Shore Tuna Club c/o Peter Nowinski, 1330 Richland Blvd., Bay Shore, New York 11706.

LOOK OUT HAWAII—HERE COMES "THE SHARK MAN"

Captain Frank Mundus of Montauk fame, breaks new ground. For the months of December 1984, and February, March and April of 1985, Frank will be setting up shop on the island of Kona, Hawaii, running trips of two days and one night of fishing, and for whatever the **customer** wants (not usually the rule on Hawaiian charter packets. Fish for small stuff to 100 lbs. the first day, shark at night and troll for blue marlin the second day. Cost will be $1200, with a five-passenger limit, aboard a 50 foot diesel powered charter boat. Frank says the reason the trip is so cheap is that all fish caught will belong to the boat.

For further information, you can call Frank up to the last week of November at (516) 668-2779.

LADY MARION WINS MAKO ROUNDUP

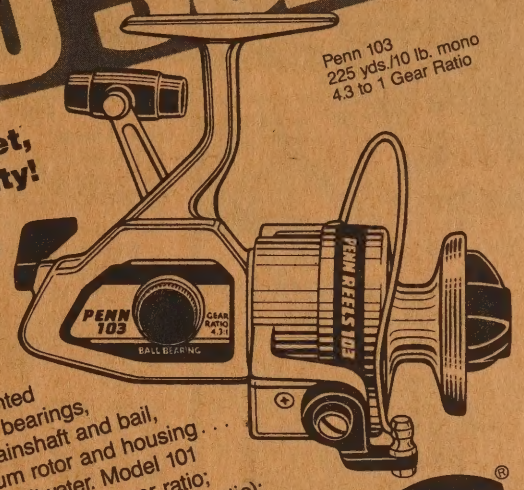
Captain Ken Schmieder of the Lady Marion won the Squaw Island Fishing Club's Mako Roundup with a 315 lb. mako shark.

Captain Ken and his crew member, Tom Wiswall were awarded a Penn International 50W and custom trolling rod as the first place winner of this year's event.

The S.I.F.C. hosted Captain Ken and crew at their August 13th meeting at the Bay Village Inn, Amityville, for the awards presentation.

The Squaw Island Fishing Club and Frank & Dick's Bait Station, Babylon, wish to thank all of the captains and crews for participating in this year's Roundup, and remind all sport fisherman of the plans to sponor Rodeos monthly during the 1985 season.

Penn 100 Series



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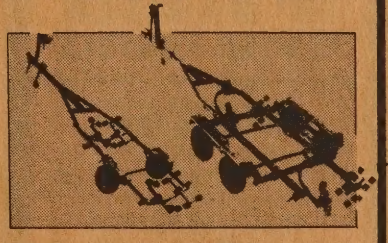

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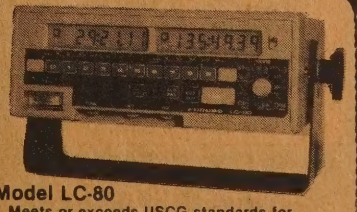

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CHUM LINES

NEEDS HELP FOR FISH TAGGING!

Gentlemen:

Some of our members are fortunate in catching striped bass (shorts) which are returned to the water (surf fishing—N.S. Hortons to Orient Pt.).

Members involved would like to tag these fish for valuable future ecology records. Now—who should we contact to secure tags and instructions? Your prompt reply would be appreciated. *Jim Castagna.*

Although we have answered this letter personally, we felt it was worth publication as well so as to have the opportunity to provide this information for all clubs and individuals who might be interested in fish tagging.

There are a number of outlets for fish tagging. Perhaps the first stop for the layman should be the American Littoral Society, based at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. They provide tags at a modest cost that can be used on almost any species and the return data is published in their journal.

The New York State DEC does engage in fish tagging studies from time to time, and it looks like they might be interested in gaining the support and help of recreational fishermen. Thus, you might want to contact them at Stony Brook, New York. In addition, there are special tagging programs for special situations that come around from time to time. An example would be bluefin tuna and sharks. To respond to these opportunities, anglers should read fishing publications for announcements. Also, you might want to contact the National Marine Fisheries Service or New York Sea Grant Cooperative Extension, Riverhead, to register for any future tagging programs. Dr. W.A. Muller.

A RIGHT TO LIVE

Hello!

My name is P. Evdans. My friends call me Searobin. Actually if you are fishing in the bay or surf you should call me Striped Searobin. I have heard that you land-dwellers are very sensitive. You take care of each other when you are hurt and you even have groups called right to live, or something like that.

What I can't understand is how you nice land-dwellers come to our home, catch some of us that are not so smart and just leave us on the beach or boat to die for no reason at all.

We happen to be very good to eat, but most of you for some reason or other, will not eat us. So why take us out of our home to die for nothing. *We have a right to live.* We did not ask you to come into our home and make no mistake about it, it is our home. You just happen to be an uninvited guest. If I sound bitter, it is because I have a very good reason. Yesterday, I saw a very good friend of mine having something to eat, suddenly pulled to the beach and left lying on the sand to die. It took a long time and he suffered intensely, but you did not give it a second thought.

I could understand if you were going to eat him. Then we could say he did not die for nothing. If you do not intend to use us for any reason, then put us back into our home and let us live. Some day you just might wish we were there. *Sal Pantaleone.*

FLUKE—DARK ON BOTH SIDES!

Dear Dr. Muller:

I have been a subscriber to The Fisherman for about four years and enjoy it very much. I also have learned a lot about fishing tips, and fish themselves. I do most of my fishing in Jamaica Bay, Rockaway Inlet and the Bight. In the summer I fish mainly for fluke and probably have caught hundreds, maybe more, fluke on my boat. The difference in these two fluke was that they were black on both sides; rather the stomach was the same color as the back, except for a small white spot about one inch wide. I have asked people about it, but no one could tell me why these fish were so different. Also, a friend of mine a few days earlier caught one of the fish for the first time, and he's been fishing many years longer than I. Could you tell me if these are freaks, sick fish, are they safe to eat? These fish all were caught in Rockaway Inlet.

Also that day I deep hooked a few fluke and just cut off the line, leaving the hook in the fish, then returning them to the water. I've done this many times and I think I read in The Fisherman that the hooks rot away after awhile. I always wonder what chance the fish have of surviving. I don't keep any short fluke, but I would hate to throw back a fish that will die anyway. Could you tell me what chance the fish have of living with, say a gold-plated typical bass hook or fluke hook, and how long it takes for the hook to rust away? I hope you can answer my questions. *John Caraccio.*

Thanks for the compliments. As far as the fluke go, the appearance of the same coloration on both sides is simply a genetic or embryonic mistake. Double white flounder and fluke tend not to survive because they are more vulnerable to predation, showing white against the colored bottom. Double dark ones survive at a rate really no different from the dark-white relatives, since a dark side is up in either case. Of course the fish are good to eat. Double dark or white does not indicate disease any more than different hair color in humans suggests a disease condition.

In most cases you can release

fluke, and other fish, successfully by cutting the line. An exception would be a fish that is bleeding heavily and this would be obvious. Yes, the stomach juices and saltwater corrode the hook quickly. However, we suggest bronzed hooks and tinned hooks which will corrode quickly. Avoid stainless steel which will resist the effects of salt and acid. Dr. W.A. Muller.

COMMENT ON RELEASING FISH ARTICLE

Your article "How to Release Fish Properly" is excellent. Its very title, though, begs another question, one intensely philosophical. Why? the need to **play** with a sentient creature. Is it really possible to believe that we aren't traumatizing, deliberately for our pleasure, a living thing.

After 40 years of fishing, it's the commercial fisherman I can relate to, not the "sportsman" who plays and releases. No response needed, just wanted to express what I think a fish might write. Thanks. *Gene Giffords.*

We would like to discover, or hear about, a way to catch fish that doesn't hurt the fish so that as you point out, the fish are not stressed. It isn't likely that such a method will ever be discovered and, if it were, it would by definition defeat the nature of fishing since the fish would no longer run and fight.

You can't live without hurting or killing other living things. Asian monks pray everyday for forgiveness for the small life they will step on that day. How many bacteria do we each kill in a day? How many insects? How many small plants we stomp to death? The point of the article was not the philosophy of pain, but the concept of returning to the sea those fish that a sport fisherman doesn't eat. Why kill something if you don't have to. In this way, a single fish may delight a number of people, reproduce a few extra times, and finally be caught and eaten. As far as "traumatizing" goes, emotions such as fear and love and even the emotional side of pain are human qualities that a fish does not share. Sure, they feel pain, but it serves to warn the fish that something is wrong. The anxiety and fear associated with the perception of pain in humans doesn't exist for fish. When conditions return to normal, so does the fish and the pain, only a series of micro-electrical impulses, continues until the wound begins to heal. Humans can enhance pain, heighten it, through fear and anxiety. Calm and rational acceptance of pain minimizes it. We're not going to stop fishing, any more than we're going to stop slaughtering cows, sheep, chickens, etc. Such practices can be brutal. How about farming: all those plants screaming in pain. We, as humans, "play" as you put it, with many creatures from dogs to tropical fish to house plants. Maybe it isn't our best behavior, but it sure is popular. Let's think of the fish as a resource to be appreciated and used; but prudently and logically. Dr. W.A. Muller.

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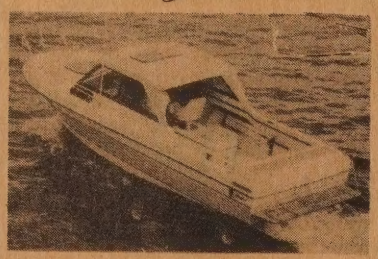

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NEWS UPDATE:

MORE ON MARYLAND BASS MORATORIUM

by William Muller

On Wednesday, September 19, 1984, the Governor of Maryland, Harry Hughes, dropped the "bomb" at a Congressional Subcommittee Hearing. Actually, Dr. Torrey Brown, Maryland's Secretary of Natural Resources had proffered the news release a week earlier, but it was Governor Hughes' statement to members of Congress that drew most attention to Maryland's decision.

Governor Hughes explained that his request to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission for a 55 percent reduction in fishing effort would not be enough to help the striped bass based upon recent evidence. Through the first six months of 1984 scientific teams recorded improved spawning success. However, the scientists also recorded very high mortality of the eggs, larvae and young that negated the potential benefits of improved spawning. In the end, 1984 will go down as one of the worst recruitment years with a recruitment index of less than two. That compares to an index in Maryland waters of over 30 for 1970. In the last ten years the index has not been able to get above 10.

As New York State Governor Mario Cuomo did last year in signing our bass law, Governor Hughes established a task force to study the potential hardship to Maryland's watermen and to make recommendations for alleviating those hardships created by the moratorium.

In New York, the Task Force concentrated its efforts on reinventing the wheel. Thus, the substance of a recently released task force document contains suggestions that would either destroy New York's law or negate it through dilution and exception. On the other hand, the reports coming out of Maryland indicate that the governor in that state has established more careful guidelines for the functions of the Task Force. In Dr. Brown's statement he referred to the task force as the **compensation task force**, and indicated that the role of the task force would be to decide "how compensation will be accomplished." The total fund for compensation is estimated to be about $1,700,000. This is the estimate officials have for the income to watermen and others in the striped bass resource harvesting business in Maryland for the year 1982. There have been some reports that the watermen will take this issue to the courts, while other reports indicate their willingness to give this plan a try.

Governor Hughes also indicated he will write to the governors of other states urging them to take action beyond the 55 percent mortality reduction requested last year. The Governor said, "Therefore, because it would take three to four years to measure the success or failure of any action, we could not risk the possibility that the 55 percent reduction action would fail. We had to take immediate steps to reduce fishing mortality on present and potential spawning stock. A moratorium will provide the maximum egg deposition and the maximum protection to the endemic Chesapeake Bay stocks."

Governor Hughes also called upon the Federal Government to take action in support of the striped bass. He urged "legislation to enhance the ASMFC fishing reduction effort... financial support for, research, monitoring, planning, hatchery development..."

The moratorium action is a bold step by Maryland to conserve rapidly diminishing striped bass stocks. Although the Hudson River stock of striped bass has been reproducing successfully in recent years, these successful Hudson year classes don't amount to a drop in the bucket compared to the contribution of the Chesapeake stock, according to scientists. One scientist said, "I've got to respect Maryland's action. I'm sure it wasn't easy for them and that Governor Hughes has guts. But, let's understand something. If the Hudson fish were to have terrible spawning years and the Chesapeake good and great ones, we'd have great striper fishing along the coast. Great Hudson spawning success contributes little to fishing productivity when you spread those few fish out from north Jersey to southern Massachusetts. We must protect the Chesapeake stocks and it now appears that a moratorium is needed along the coast."

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RENTAL SKIFF BLACKS

by Tom Schlichter

Long Island's western bays offer the rental skiff angler easy access to some fine tautog action.

Why it is that more south shore rental skiff fishermen do not set out in search of "tog" is beyond me. These bullish fighting, sweet tasting game fish are within reach of many rental stations; smart, although not exceedingly difficult to catch, and available in numbers and weights that easily justify a planned trip in pursuit of this tasty crab-crusher.

As bottom fish go, the blackfish is a unique individual bordering on the eccentric. It chooses to dine on what would rank as many of the more expensive items on the menu of a good seafood restaurant and has been known to feed (as well as sleep) while standing on its head. Referred to as the tautog by the International Game Fish Association's world record book and most New Englanders, the blackfish possesses a rather unusual dental arrangement. It hosts a set of small buckteeth at the front of its mouth which it uses to separate mussels or other shellfish from their moorings and a set of grinders deep back in the throat which it uses to crush and pulverize such hard-bodied items as crabs.

The primary requirement needed to locate blackfish is structure. This is no news to even the casual fisherman, and Lord knows, there's plenty available in the western south shore bays. Just how tightly blackfish cling to their homes, however, is often a fact overlooked by beginners. Merely being in the vicinity of structure will not suffice. For fast action, you need to be directly over or snuggled tightly against a dock, bridge piling, jetty, mussel bed, or other piece of submerged debris. This point cannot be over-emphasized for it is the single most important factor when it comes to filling the freezer with blackfish dinners.

The same tackle you would normally bring flounder fishing is suitable for working most south shore bay locations, but the preferred setup would be slightly heavier. A medium action rod of six feet in length and a matching reel spooled with 20 pound test gets the job done for me.

Whether to choose a single or two hook rig is a matter that should be determined by the size of the fish and the density of the structure you are fishing. I generally use a single hook setup consisting of a #6 Virginia style hook tied via a dropper loop three to six inches above a bank sinker. Many veterans, though, tie in two hooks when working over mussel beds or smooth rock bottoms. If you find yourself over real rough bottom, one setup that may save you a few fish over the course of an outing, although it will cost you in lead, is to tie a three-way swivel to the end of the main line and attach your sinker to this swivel via a lighter test line. To the remaining ring attach your hook. With this rig you will break off the sinker before the hook, saving you a fish should your line be caught on the bottom by the sinker.

Among the best known and most productive blackfishing locations available to south shore rental boaters are the series of bridges supporting the Meadowbrook and Loop Park-

The Meadowbrook and Loop Parkway Bridges are readily accessible to rental skiff anglers as are the Atlantic Beach and Wantagh Parkway spans.

ways. The most productive of each set is usually the bridge located closest to the inlet. Both Ed's and Scottie's Fishing Stations in Point Lookout provide access to these locations. When fishing here, it's a good idea to tie up directly to the bridge itself as many an anchor has been eaten by the rugged bottom of these locations. Other south shore stations which cater to blackfishermen include the Long Beach Sports Marina in Long Beach and the Reynold's Reef Fishing Station at the foot of the Atlantic Beach Bridge. There are others, of course, and many are listed in The Fisherman's advertising section. When looking for a place from which to rent a skiff, be sure to inquire about the distance to the fishing grounds and the availability of bait.

Speaking of bait, fiddler crabs are the south shore favorite of many fishermen, but I think more large fish are taken on green crabs. As always, choosing between baits is a trade-off. The fiddlers are less messy and simple to place on the hook. All that need be done with this bait is to break off the large claw and insert the hook point through the exposed socket and out the rear. Green crabs, on the other hand, require that you remove their top shell and cut the remainder into halves or even quarters. They do not stay on the hook as well as the fiddlers. The choice, however, is yours.

Although most fishermen prefer to get an early start, I find that a rising tide has a much greater bearing on whether or not the blackfish will bite, especially when working near bridge abutments. Actually, any moving water is apt to produce some blackfish, but those fishing the first half of incoming water seem to enjoy the most success.

Bay blackfishing along the western south shore can't match locations further east or on the north shore for day in and day out quality, but it does have its moments. The average size of the fish in most locations is 1½ to 2 pounds. A few larger fish to 5 pounds also show in most catches and the possibility of an 8 or 10 pounder always looms when working any of the Loop Parkway or Meadowbrook Parkway bridges.

If you plan ahead, it's possible to combine a trip for blackfish with some flounder fishing. I always bring along a pack of clams and some flounder rigs. This way, if the tide is not quite right to start blackfishing, I get in a few innings with the flatties while I wait for the odds to change in my favor.

Remember to bring along some warm clothing on these tautog hunts as the temperature out on the bay is often considerably cooler than on land at this time of the year. Keep in mind also that while blackfish are available in our waters into late November, not all rental stations choose to remain open that long. So, get out while you can and stock up on some fun and fillets.

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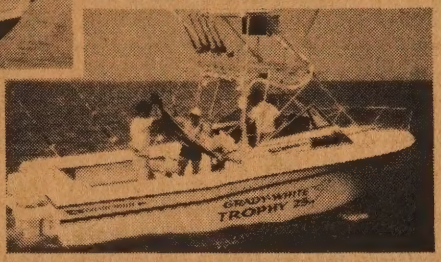

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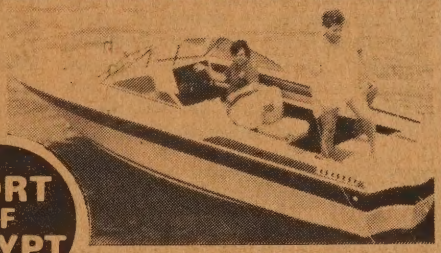

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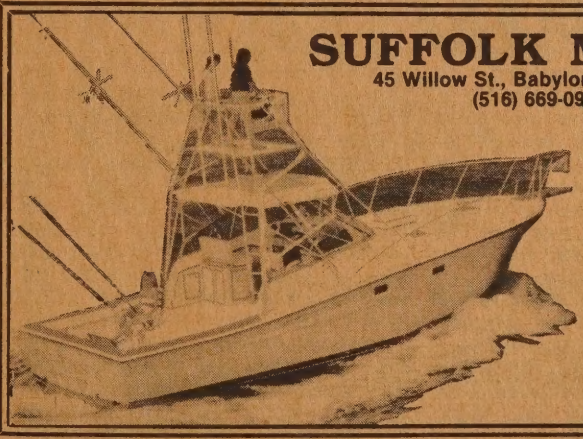

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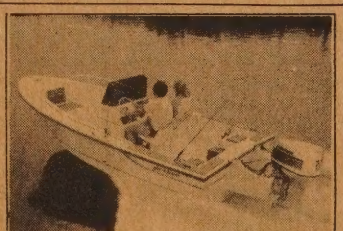

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"RAMBLINGS" FROM MATT

by Matt Ahern

My sixth grade school teacher once told me I was extremely retentive. After I had quit wailing, she told me the word meant only that I was able to recall in clear detail the many things that impressed me long after they happened.

Now, in my late years, I have to admit she knew something of which I was unaware, for I find I'm continuously haunted by sharply-etched memories, and especially do I retain with vivid clarity the events of early fishing days. But I often wonder why it is only on the subject of fishing this quirk is evident. Should I go to the supermarket for more than two items, my mind is a veritable sieve.

It doesn't take much to trigger these long-retained memories which seem always accompanied by minute detail. For instance, one morning in late summer I happened upon two kids snapper fishing from a rundown pier near the Shinnecock Inlet. Now, this is a scene we fishermen have witnessed numerous times, and like you, it was viewed with nothing more than a passing glance. "Go get 'em, kids," was my only thought until one of the youngsters set the stage by making a certain movement, or perhaps a sound, which for the life of me I cannot describe. But the instant of its occurrence was enough to release that mental trigger. In my mind's eye I could immediately see myself and Artie Leidecker fishing for snappers and yearling mackerel off the sea wall in Sheepshead Bay 'way back in the middle twenties.

It is not my intention, however, to write about Sheepshead Bay snapper and mackerel fishing in the long-ago, but rather to relate some interesting things about those party boats that sailed from that port in those never-to-return days.

Sheepshead Bay was quite a busy fishing port then, more so I believe than it is now simply because during the height of the season there were more passengers than accommodations and competition was not so keen. It was a common sight to see groups of saddened fishermen who had arrived at the last minute and were left stranded on vacated piers, downcast with the knowledge that they must either return home or join kids like me in a little snapper fishing. Nor was there any set quota on how many fishermen these boats could safely carry. (If there was, it was never enforced.) Fishermen eagerly crowded on board party boats known to have fish-catching reputations in such a manner I sometimes thought of sardines in a can. But no one seemed to mind, for there were fish aplenty of all.

Outside of localities such as Canarsie and Island Park (which was then called Wreck Lead or sometimes Queens Waters), plus Freeport, the Battery, Hoboken, and maybe one or two small ports in The Bronx—Sheepshead Bay was the only port large enough to handle those thousands of local party boat fans. Out east, Lindenhurst, Babylon, Canoe Place, and Montauk were available for those interested in fishing practically virgin waters for stripers, weaks, blues, and fluke. There was no Captree Fishing Fleet and today's Montauk Fishing Fleet is gigantic when compared to what existed there 60 years ago.

Though there were plenty of autos, there were still many horse-drawn wagons around, and few fishermen were fortunate enough in this changeover period to own private transportation to reach these out-of-the-way places. And no matter how good the fishing in those spots to the east, not many fishermen had the means to take advantage of it. Some years later, the Long Island Rail Road saw its opportunity and ran their popular Fisherman's Special to Canoe Place and Montauk. Many times it was standing room only, even though seating was promised to all. The railroad just could not keep up with the demand, but they did their best with what they had. I think one of the best features was the refrigerator car to store the fisherman's catch on the return trip.

Undoubtedly, this innovation led to the commercialism of these semi-rural port areas and to the building-up of that distant party boat business. But all in all, most fellows fished locally because of the monetary conditions that existed. The Sheepshead Bay party boat fleet had a captive audience, so to speak, and the waterfront was a bustling, boisterous place to be sure.

Many fishermen who journeyed to the Bay in those days did so via subway and elevated lines, trolley cars, and in what few buses were then available. It was a fairly long hike from the elevated station to the waterfront and I trudged it often, carrying my two-piece, twenty-five cent bamboo snapper pole.

It was the party boat fleet that appealed to me, though. Whether the snapper fishing was good, bad, or indifferent, I rarely left for home before most of the fleet returned so that I could check out the day's results. There wasn't any sight so beautiful to me as the many varieties of fish brought back to the docks. I saw sea bass, porgies, and fluke in numbers seldom seen today. I often think my chief reason for going snapper fishing in the Bay was to be on hand when those boats returned.

There were many party boats and those I vividly remember were the Glory, Evelyn, Sachem, Au Revoir, Sylph, Effort, Effort II, Effort III, Giralda, Dora, R.C. Lundy, Pilot II, Helen H, America, Elmar, Elmar II, Elmar III, Bijou, Sea Pigeon (I love that name!), Sunshine, Carrie D, and the ill-fated MJR III, the sinking of which I was slated to witness some years later.

Some of these larger boats, the Sachem, Giralda, Sylph, and Au Revoir, were quite handsome and were mostly retired millionaires' yachts. Some of these were coal-fired and steam-powered. You may be sure they made a pretty picture as they glided silently over the sea on their way to distant banks and wrecks which only ships of such large proportions could reach in assured safety. The Sachem and Au Revoir were each over 180 feet long!

Some of the outstanding skippers I got to know in later years were Jake Martin, Dave Martin, Chubby Martin, Bill Stephens, Gus Rau, Alec Hansen, Harry Phillips, Johnny Michaels, "Candy" Keefe, Joe Ecock, and Fred Wrege.

All these skippers were past masters at the fishing game and when one takes into consideration that there were no electronic aids available, that all one had were a compass, a ship's clock, binoculars, and two extremely sharp eyes, and once you got out there, you were at the mercy of whatever Nature threw at you—it is no wonder I tip my fishing cap in their honor. They were seamen supreme.

Mentioning the Au Revoir recalls the unforgettable day she returned from a New Jersey Coast sea bass and porgy trip. It was late one Thursday afternoon when that beautiful ship came into the bay with her siren screaming, announcing to one and all that she had made a record catch. I quickly gathered my rod and fish bucket and scooted across the wooden footbridge that straddles the Bay and raced along Emmons Avenue, both of us arriving at the pier about the same time.

There were probably 75 passengers on board and there wasn't one of those fishermen who didn't have at

least 100 of the largest kind of sea bass and porgies you would want to see. It was enough to take your breath away. Huge porgies and sea bass were packed in everyone's bag and surplus 4 to 4½ pound sea bass were lying all over the deck. This was because there was just no way for individual fishermen to carry their catch off the boat due to the weight of so many fish in each bag. These unwanted fish had been left behind for the mates to sell to the many housewives who arrived daily to buy any surplus fish.

There was so much confusion going on that I slipped aboard unnoticed, after first "hiding" my snapper rod and fish bucket behind a coil of old Manila anchor cable. I made my way to the stern, actually pushing two-foot long sea bass out of my path. It was the first time I'd ever been aboard anything larger than a rowboat. I was enthralled. I can still hear the hissing of the steam boilers and smell the pungent odor of escaping coal gas from the funnel. To me, it was like being in another world. I knew, just knew, mind you, that some day party boat fishing was going to be a way of life for me. No doubt about it. That giddy feeling was as true as the knowledge that the sun's rising in the East was inevitable.

Seated at the stern were a half-dozen tired-looking fishermen still cleaning their catch. The sharp-eyed gulls were driving each other into a frenzy with their ceaseless screaming and bickering as they whirled and dove for the easy pickings being tossed overboard. I had never seen anything like it, although in later years this scene was slated to be repeated a hundred-fold for me.

One of those fish-cleaning anglers was ex-bantamweight champion Joe Lynch, who at the time was nearly as popular as Jack Dempsey. I had seen him often enough in the sport section of city newspapers and in the silent Pathe newsreels of the day. And like all great men, he was kind.

He asked me how many fish I'd caught and when I told him I wasn't a passenger, but had been attracted by all the hullabaloo, he told me they had fished Beach Haven and that he alone had landed 120 fish. He insisted I take a couple of sea bass and then handed over two of the largest and then kindly cleaned them so that I could carry them with ease. I wrapped them in newspaper and happily left the boat, retrieved my fish bucket and pole and trekked the long haul back to the elevated line. Do you know, I actually have no recollection of that walk, so engrossed was I with my thoughts. I had never seen so many large sea bass and porgies at one time, nor have I since.

This was my initiation to the potential of the party boat fishing game that awaited me when I "grew up." I often think of the Au Revoir and her record catch. I'm glad I had the opportunity to witness it. It came at the right time.

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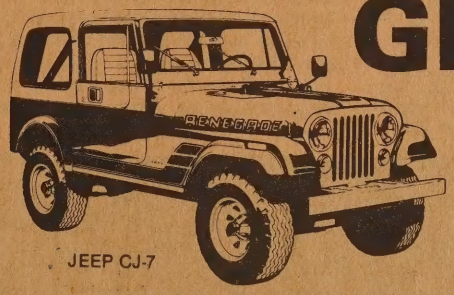

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A TIME FOR WOOD

by John Fritz

Beach wise casters know full well, the value of darters and bottle plugs

Long before the introduction of plastic into the manufacture of fishing lures, surf fishermen casting artificials were limited to items made of either metal or wood. In those days the variety of lures available to the average surfman was restricted, placing little burden on casual anglers to fret about when choosing the proper lure. Although every fishing rule has its exceptions, a quality which makes it such a challenging sport, basic theory urges that fishermen use tin in the daylight and swimming plugs at night. In this present day and age when an increasing number of anglers are prowling the water's edge, many with an intimate knowledge of far-reaching shores and diversified approaches to the sport, several of these ancient concepts are shown to be suspect. The night-long sessions on the sand bar at Democrat Point a few seasons past, when weakfish were taken only when a Hopkins was dragged along the bottom, is just one example which is contrary to this basic rule.

Darters and/or bottle plugs have long been the mainstay of those hardened surfmen who work the autumn tides caressed by the beam of Montauk's lighthouse. Even today, many surf fishermen are convinced that these ever-popular plugs should be used only in fast water and only during the hours of darkness. In the following lines I will try to expand this narrow concept and point out a few of the many instances where these two dynamite lures may be used successfully elsewhere.

These plugs are more likely to be used towards the latter part of the season, a practice aided in part by the popularity of the larger sized plugs and the doubtful qualities of the less widely used smaller versions of the same lure. This is due in some degree to the reluctance of the less selective tackle stores to carry the complete line of these plugs. The two major producers, in our area, of field tested and accepted wooden darters and bottle plugs are the Super Strike line offered by Don Musso of Long Island and the more widely recognized Stan Gibbs plugs manufactured up north in Massachusetts. The various weights of either line of plugs varies only slightly. The Super Strike offering has bottle plugs in sizes of 1, 2 and 3 ounces with the weights of their darters varying to a small extent by ranging from 1½, 2 and 3 ounces. This group of wooden plugs is becoming increasingly more popular with experienced surfmen up and down the East Coast; its single drawback being that they are available at only a few select tackle stores, along the Eastern Seaboard. Stan Gibbs plugs have long held the reputation of attracting game fish when other lures have failed. Their proven bottle plugs are available in weights similar to the Super Strike, that is 1, 2 and 3 ounces, but one obvious difference being that the bodies of the Gibbs plugs are fatter than their competitors. Gibbs provides his darters in only two sizes: 1-5/8 ounces and the universal favorite at 2½ ounces.

A comparison of the selection offered by the two most prominent Long Island suppliers of darters and bottle plugs will readily indicate that the plug caster has a wide selection from which to choose, this even before taking into consideration the different color schemes offered by each craftsman. In either case yellow, closely followed by white are the leading choices of area anglers even though there are occasions when dark colored plugs seem to outproduce all others. On exceptionally dark nights some veteran surfmen swear by the results they obtain when using the blue mackerel finished darters and even plugs painted entirely black. To add a little more confusion, there is a brief period at Montauk when brown plugs will draw the most attention and lately word is spreading around that Super Strike's pink darter is gaining more acceptance.

During the early season's activities, when most plug casters are diligently working plastic swimming plugs, knowledgeable anglers will include in their plug bag a few of the smaller sized darters and bottle plugs. Their capacity to interest fish when worked in fast water is well known and their added weight will ensure a longer cast, an advantage which may be critical when the school is lying off the beach. An example of this occurred one past July at Shagwong where even though numerous weakfish were being taken on five inch RedFins or Rebel swimmers and the red and

Bottle plugs on the left, and darters, right, should be included in the arsenal of every surfman.

white #60M MirrOlure, there were certain stages of the tide when the most productive plug was a 2 or 2½ ounce yellow darter. At this particular time the schools of weakfish would oscillate with the changing pattern of the ebbing currents and lie beyond the reach of the lighter lures.

In some instances, especially when small, slender bait such as sand eels are abundant, the addition of a teaser will produce better results. A teaser, whether it be a soft rubber Red Gill or the customary feather, is ideal for use with either of these plugs, for both are normally retrieved at a slow rate of speed. In fact, when used in a location which features an extremely rapid flow of water there is little need to turn the handle of the reel at all except to take in the slack line and to retrieve the plug after it has swung too far down the beach. The pulsating sensation felt at the rod tip when the plug is working properly is a readily evident indication, even to a novice, that it is doing its best to entice that lurking predator into making a strike.

Darters and bottle plugs are frequently the first choice of experienced surfmen when working fast moving water, particularly in places where rips are normally encountered. Frequently, a section of the rip will include an area of choppy water which, on occasion, will present some difficulty in getting the plug to work properly. If possible cast to a point above the rip, before the area of tumultuous water, with a few sharp jerks of the rod tip set the lip of the plug so that it digs in, causing it to swim in a wobbling motion beneath the surface. It should be pointed out that tension must be maintained on the lure at all times otherwise it will float to the surface where it will impart all the action of a piece of driftwood. When this occurs during the normal course of the retrieve, quickly reel in the slack line and reset the nose of the plug with one or two forceful sweeps of the rod. When fishing in water which is especially turbulent, the more exaggerated lip of the bottle plug is better designed to thrust the plug below the surface where it can be detected by a waiting game fish. Difficulties similar to those described above are also found when casting into a long sweeping surf where the rushing waves carry the plug towards the beach. Such complications are slightly more bothersome to remedy, but they are handled in much the same manner as outlined above. The pronounced lip of the bottle plug, which by the way is occasionally referred to as a casting swimmer, does have one drawback when used in shallow fast moving waters. The enlarged, concave face of this little plug will force it to swim at a greater depth than the less elaborately fashioned darter.

Repeated encounters with a rocky bottom will soon chip and fray the fine working edges of these plugs reducing their effectiveness and causing some cost conscious surfmen to shy away from using these expensive lures in areas where they may be damaged or lost. The leading edges of damaged plugs can be repaired by sanding the battered lips smooth and sealing the bare wood with a thin coat of epoxy. This now toughened, leading edge of the plug will reduce further damage considerably and will not seriously affect the action of the lure.

This is just one instance where the expertise of an accomplished lure maker can be improved upon. An additional example, which will often increase the effectiveness of these plugs, is to remove the tail treble hook and replace it with the appropriate sized Siwash which has been dressed with either bucktail or feathers. The leisurely undulation of this embellished hook will frequently provide the inducement for a hesitate game fish into striking.

It has been the practice of many surfmen to use these plugs primarily at night. In fact, once the autumn sun has set they are probably the most widely used of the larger plugs. This custom induced many plug casters to refrain from trying these lures during the daylight hours, a time when various tins and popping plugs were used exclusively. If this is your particular habit, let me point out that darters and bottle plugs should be an essential part of a surfman's equipment whether he is fishing night or day. On several occasions, I have seen either plug account for a significant number of fish when all the normally used daylight lures proved ineffective.

These plugs are usually worked with a slow steady retrieve, a suitable technique when a fast moving current will provide the necessary action. Occasionally, though, this will fail to produce the desired results and experimentation becomes necessary. One such peculiar retrieve which took bass when all else failed was to speed up the retrieve and jerk the rod tip in a manner similar to the method one would use when working a standard popping plug through a school of bluefish. On another occasion I was frustrated because I couldn't get my plug to work as it should, since the heave was especially bad on this particular night, while my partner was hanging fish consistently. After complaining to him that I could not get my plug to work properly he replied that, "his wasn't either, that it was just floating along the surface with little apparent action."

These two types of plugs should be an integral part of everyone's arsenal of lures. The diverse set of circumstances under which they can be effectively employed will ensure abundant opportunities throughout a season. Whether it is used in the forceful rips along the ocean shore or on the more placid waters of Long Island Sound, these time-honored wooden artifacts will continue to please fishermen, but more importantly, the fish.

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A TUNA TALE

by Brian Mulholland

The author recounts a memorable day spent chasing tuna from the deck of an open boat.

This is a fish story. It's a true story and I have pictures to prove it, but it's a fish story nonetheless. The morals to be learned are ones that a fisherman will appreciate, on matching your tackle to the fishing at hand, and just how valuable skilled mates can be when you get into trouble on a party boat. Besides, I feel like crowing a little.

I've chased tuna from party boats once or twice a year for the past several years. Most of this fishing has been out of Sheepshead Bay or Freeport, where the Tampa VI and the Super Spray have made trips far offshore in pursuit of the fish. However, more boats are entering this fishery than I've ever seen before, and as a side effect, the fishing is becoming more accessible. One of the boats now participating is the Viking Starship, better known to codfish and bluefish enthusiasts than to ambitious tuna chasers until now. I joined the tuna enthusiasts on the Viking on Sunday, September 16th, on a $75 trip to the Tuna Grounds about 18 miles or so south of Montauk. Departure time was 3:30 a.m.

It was cold that morning. A stiff northerly wind chased all thoughts of Indian Summer out of my head as I hung around the Viking parking lot waiting for the Starship to return from its night bluefish run.

I had rented a rod and reel from the boat as a backup, but I would up using a Fenwick 1665 and a Newell 344F of my own instead. The night before I had filled the reel at J&J Bait and Tackle in Patchogue with exactly 300 yards of 40 pound Ande. Paul Graniello noticed that I had been securing monofilament to the few yards of dacron backing wtih a small swivel; he took the swivel out and tied the two together with a nail knot.

The mates told me my outfit was light, but the rental outfit stunned me with its size: a new Sealine 900H, fully spooled with 80 pound monofilament and mounted on a rod with a gimbaled butt. I felt tired as soon as I looked at it, so I decided to stick with something I could handle more easily even at the risk of being outweighed by the fish.

We made our way south through the darkness and were at our chosen station just as the early pre-dawn light began to arrive on the horizon. I sat and watched my fellow anglers put their lines over in the darkness; they got lots of practice picking up each other's lines, and little else. A couple of fellows had done something rather creative. They had spent the interval before the Starship left the dock fishing for snappers, which they tried to keep alive in a water-filled 122 quart Igloo. It worked better than I would've thought; they had at least a few snappers left right up to the very end of the day.

One tuna came aboard fairly quickly after full daylight had arrived. Then a jig fisherman had a bluefish, and I thought I'd imitate him. I put down the boat's rental outfit, with which I had been reluctantly baitfishing, and tied on an eight ounce Vi-Ke jig with a 9/0 Siwash hook. Following Captain Forsberg's instructions, I dropped down to the bottom, took in a few turns of line and began bouncing the jig up and down in place. I had done so for perhaps half a minute when a fish arrived. I was surprised and I guess the fish was too, for it didn't immediately move and I thought that perhaps it was a bluefish, but then the tuna began to run fast enough to make the reel's bearings whirr. Inevitably the tuna ran under the anchor, and two mates wiggled out on the bowsprit and passed my rod underhanded from one to the other so I could get hold of it. Then the fish led me down the starboard side all the way to the stern. By the time I got there, the entire 300 yards of 40 pound mono was gone, and I was looking at a half-inch ribbon of dacron backing and little else. Paul's nicely finished nail knot went through the guides easily; my hair stood on end, and nervous breaths of anticipation were aired all over the stern.

For nearly an hour, that fish hung in his chosen position off the starboard stern of the Starship. I'd get a few yards, pumping and gasping, and the fish would take them back. Now and then I'd get a steady run of perhaps 10 or 15 yards on the reel, and then lose it again. The line was under enough tension so that pink shreds began flaking off the Ande for the last 20 feet before the knot. In all, the nail knot went three or four times in and out of the rod tip. It was not until an hour had passed that I began to get a useful amount of line back on the reel. While I was doing so, of course, other passengers had been hooking up, some with 50 pound outfits of their own and some with the 80 pound rental equipment. But for long periods of time I was the only angler tied into a fish, and an enthusiastic knot of fellow fishermen urged me on and expressed their good wishes by hoping that the fish looked half as bad as I did.

I've never had so much good assistance from any mate as I got on the Starship. One of them up-ended a plastic garbage can, and I sat on top of it in the corner of the rail with one foot on each side of the railing! I must have looked hysterically funny, but it was a good improvised fishing chair. Without being asked, a mate got a glass of water from the galley and held it so I could drink without taking a hand off the rod, and I was coached continously from start to finish.

With two-thirds of the line recovered, the fish went all the way up the port side and back underneath the anchor cable. Then I got into a series of relatively short, quick runs followed by some regaining of line. Repeatedly, the fish went underneath the boat and both Captain Forsberg and the mates out on the bowsprit to pass the outfit under the anchor line. Eventually the fish just died (I know how it felt) and a mate hand-lined the fish to within gaffing distance. It weighed 78 pounds.

I have a suspicion that part of the reason that the fight took so long is that I reduced the drag, when the rod was being passed around the bowsprit, so that the mates handling it would have a little less strain to carry. Probably I never got it up to its original setting. But even so, there was plenty of pressure being exerted on that fish. Five yards less line, or two pounds more tuna, and I'd have had an empty spool. Several other people had smaller reels stripped bare by tuna in the course of the day, and Captain Forsberg has had 9/0 reels cleaned by what were presumably giant tuna.

There are a couple of morals to this little story. One is that when tuna fishing you had better take the boat's recommendations on minimum tackle seriously. Tunas come in a wide range of sizes and are mobile enough so that the small tuna of yesterday may be replaced by larger tuna tomorrow. If ever there was a situation that begged for the angler to bring along a couple of outfits with differing line tests and capacities, this is it.

If you are going to fish lighter than recommended, you'd better be damn sure that your line is in good condition. I mean buy new line and be sure that the rest of your equipment is fully up to snuff. The Fenwick 1665 rod blank is one of the PacificStik series and is geared toward albacore and yellowtail fishing off Southern California; it fits the local bill for mid-sized tuna quite nicely. But the reel, although almost a 4/0 reel in size, was not quite large enough. A wide spool 4/0 is probably a safe minimum with 50 pound line.

Give praise to the mates, and tip accordingly (I left the $20 I had). I had a mate with me almost continually for the two hours that I was tied to the fish, and they were always two steps ahead in guessing what problem was going to arise next.

The socket belt I was wearing turned out to be less useful than I had thought. I just couldn't keep the butt in the cup long enough to get any real relief while pumping the fish, though this may have been a part of inexperience on my part. But I saw other people having the same problem.

On previous tuna excursions out of the Island's West End, I generally heard that a 6/0 reel and 50 pound line was standard. This was the first time I saw anything heavier—and those Sealine 900Hs and 80 pound were heavy indeed. I also found the bigger outfit large to the point of being uncontrollable. Yet other people having the same problem.

On previous tuna excursions out of the Island's West End, I generally heard that a 6/0 reel and 50 pound line was standard. This was the first time I saw anything heavier—and those Sealine 900Hs and 80 pound were heavy indeed. I also found the bigger outfit large to the point of being uncontrollable. Yet other people did control theirs, and there's no doubt that the bigger outfit would have saved my nervous system a great deal of wear and tear. You pays your money and takes your choice—and be damn sure that your drag is well maintained. This kind of fishing will show up little mistakes in your technique that you may not notice while bluefishing, because the latter simply don't put as much strain on your tackle. But if you're going to chase tuna you'd better come to it with a perfectionist's intolerance of sloppy terminal rigging and badly maintained tackle.

So here's to the Starship and Captain Forsberg and the uniformly energetic and skillful mates, and here's to the most powerful fish a party boat angler can hope to conquer. When I got back to the dock I was able to swap chunks of tuna with other anglers from other boats for codfish. I've got enough good eating to keep the freezer adquately fishy for weeks to come, and enough tuna to afford room for plenty of mistakes in the kitchen while I experiment. What more could a happy angler/cook possibly want?

SUSHI PLEASURE

Sushi is, as most anglers are by now aware, a Japanese presentation of seafood and rice. Pieces of fish, clam, omelet and crab come pressed together on small pads of rice or wrapped with rice in a toasted wrapper. Alternative presentations are also available, but if you ask for sushi or see it on a menu, this is usually what you'll get.

Ask someone who is unfamiliar with it if he's tried it and the usual reaction will be, "Aaaughh, raw fish, I couldn't stand the stuff." People who haven't tried it have the notion that raw fish must be overpowering, relentlessly "fishy," and of interest mainly to sea gulls. I promise, it isn't like that. First of all, it isn't quite as "raw" as it may look: shrimp, crab, eel and some other foods are usually precooked and served cold. You can get these cooked foods, and nothing else, by ordering that way if you want. Second, those fish that are served raw just aren't the pungent and oily food stuffs that people seem to expect. Tuna, fluke, halibut, yellowtail and striped bass are not at all overpowering. The taste on the tongue is light and crisp, and there is little after-taste, so your fears that you'll burp fish gas for a week are unfounded.

I've introduced about a dozen friends and acquaintances over the past few years to sushi. Most have found they liked it before the end of their first serving. The taste is light, distinctive, and easy to take. It is eminently digestible. It is low in fat, though go light on the soy sauce used as a condiment if you're on a salt restricted diet. And it is a visually appealing food, for the Japanese chefs who present it pay careful attention to food presentation.

Most Japanese restaurants that have a sushi bar make note of that fact either in their advertisements or on the sign boards. Such restaurants as Kurofune and Hayasaka in the Commack area, the Kura Barn in Huntington, or Umai in Merrick usually include a restaurant proper (meaning tables set with chairs in familiar fashion) and a sushi bar, usually in a separate room. So do some of the large "steak houses," such as Shiro's in Westbury.

For the first time around, order the tuna roll known as tekka-maki. A very modest amount of tuna forms the core of these rolls; the tuna is surrounded by rice and wrapped in a toasted seaweed that lends a pleasing appearance. I haven't found anyone yet who didn't like it immediately on trying it.

Every restaurant has a standard sized meal of sushi on the menu. You will typically get a meal of 4 to 6 pieces of fish, 4 or 6 slices of the tekka or kappa-maki and some crisp vegetables on the side as a palate cleanser.

Although raw fish is used in other cuisine than Japanese (blue herring, for example), I haven't found anything generically similar to sushi. So I can't reassure you by telling you what it's like. All I can do is suggest that if you don't take the opportunity to try this delightful food, you'll be missing a treat, and one that should be of particular interest to anyone who appreciates fish enough to chase them in the first place.

TAUTOG AND TEMPER TANTRUMS

by Marty Garrell

The typical scene for East End blackfishing in the fall includes a half dozen or so small boats clustered tightly together. As the tide turns, one pair of anglers begins to pick away at fish; then they catch steadily. Another couple of boats have a slow, but at least a steady pick. Everybody else appears to be fishless. What's the problem? To be sure, there may be a few anglers in that fleet who aren't holding bottom, who aren't baited up properly, or who find the timing of the strikes impossible to master. However, most of the time, the key question is simply "Where's the reef?"

Any gang that anchors properly over the right group of boulders on the right tide should catch very well. Get off that area by a few tens of yards, and you might just as well be 10 miles away. The larger the craft, the bigger the area and the larger the group of fish must be in order to support the number of anglers aboard. Still, shore ranges and triangulation are no match for a good sonar and chart recorder; that's why the party and charter craft from Sag Harbor, Greenport, and Orient do catch consistently well when tautog are on the move in the fall and why small craft are sometimes inconsistent.

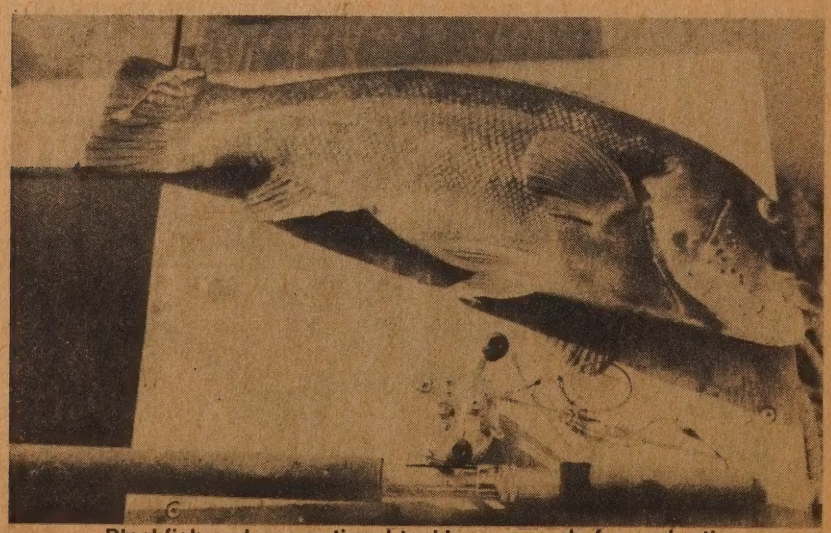
Probably the best rule to follow if you are doing poorly while the group near you is scoring is to move around—carefully and quietly—and play with some of the spots in the vicinity for a half hour or so in hopes that the fish will settle and start hitting within 15 minutes of the time you drop anchor. Perhaps you have the perfect 30 to 40 feet of depth that holds blackfish schools in late October and maybe you have all the bait you need, but, if the pay zone is the size of your living room rug and the other boats are pulling fish from it, you'll either have to get into those boats or find some other patches of productive bottom nearby for yourself.

Stages of the tide can be critical. Around Orient Light, for example, slack water with one hour on either side is often the only viable time period that you've got to work with, even in the shallow 6 to 10 foot depths between the light and the Point. This is particularly true around the time of the full moon or new moon. Sinkers of two to four ounces are far and away the best for most tautog veterans to handle; 6, 8, and even 10 are clumsy, but manageable, but when it comes to 12, 16 and 20, count us out. We'll head for other zones when tides screech and from the poor results that generally come at such times, this approach appears justified. Unless there's a lot of food down on those broken bottoms with tautog jumping onto baits as soon as they hit, angling success drops markedly when lead boots have to be lowered.

Fortunately there are places around Plum and Gull Islands or back west toward Mulford and Rocky Points where anglers fishing away from the extreme phases of the moon can sometimes get away with less than a half pound of lead at mid-tide in even 45 feet of water. Move back further west on the Sound near Hortons or Duck Pond and you may cut the lead a bit more, although the fall run won't last as long back there.

Weather is a big factor in timing fall trips for tautog out east. Although the largest numbers of truly big blackfish over 6 pounds generally show up in 20 to 40 foot depths from mid-October through mid-November, fall storms and prevalent northwesterly winds make it impossible to plan small craft trips well in advance. Generally, there's a four day cycle with a sour nor'easter and a cold rain on one day, followed by a 20 to 25 miles northwest blow on the next. Then the winds drop for 24 to 36 hours before rising out of the east again in advance of the next weather system. Peg a day on your calendar a couple of weeks ahead and the odds are 3 to 1 that you'll be scratching the trip or fighting the elements. Far better to pick up short range forecasts and, when Indian Summer comes as predicted, give excuses to the boss, forget the chores, pack the gear, and go for the beaches and launching ramps. Fortunately for those who sail aboard the North and South Fork packets, e.g., the Blue Albatross, Brand X and Peconic Star from Greenport, the Prime Time II from Orient, or the Wilhelric from Sag Harbor, there's more flexibility for the big boats, and you'll at least have a stable platform on all but the most wretched of days.

Tackle? With tautog averaging 3 to 4 pounds and sinker sizes of 6 ounces or less, medium tackle in 10 to 16 pound line classes is perfectly adequate. To the extent that you can handle heavier sinkers and larger fish, you can stretch the capacity of the gear, too. For the proper feel of the bottom and because of the need to keep rigs perfectly still on the rocks below, the control provided by conventional tackle is absolutely essential in many areas. Spinning tackle is tough to use in a heave or a strong tide. If you can tie knots with 90 percent or more breaking strength, you'll find that small Virginia hooks in sizes 5 through 9 often straighten before a 16 pound line pops, so what's



Blackfish and conventional tackle were made for each other.

the use of going to 20 or 30 pound gear? Even beefed-up 10 pound tackle, used efficiently, can usually stop a 6 to 8 pound tautog short of a rock pile if the angler jumps on the fish and tries to turn its head quickly at the end of each surge. As far as snubbing a much larger fish completely on any tackle at all, the last angler we saw trying that vanished over the transom! Seriously, a big old bulldog is going to go where it wants on those first few dashes, no matter who's upstairs on the winch! If a short, off-tackle plunge of 20 to 50 feet finds a crevice in the rocks, it's touchdown, tautog, and you're out one rig. If the blackfish finds no opening and turns, you are still in business. The advantage you have with bulldogs in the monster class is small but still, it's there: the bigger the fish, the larger the hidey-hole it requires. Unfortunately, slow-growing blackfish have been around for so long that they know where they're going before a barb actually bites them. Rod DeLisle of the Orient charter boat, Prowler, likes to point out that giants in the 20 pound group may be at least 40 years old! Obviously, fish like the all-tackle record (21.6, taken off Cape May in 1954) have to make mistakes at some critical point or wander out onto open bottom in order to be muscled to the surface.

Because blackfish don't seem particularly leader-shy and because you want those baits right on the bottom and perfectly still despite the moving water, short (less than 14 inches), tandem hooked rigs are preferred. We admit that we have serious problems using large pieces of green crab, on size 3 Virginia hooks, even when we employ 50 pound test leader material and place the rig on a three-way swivel. The baits eventually twist together after a drop or two. If tides are strong and offerings large, perhaps it's wise to employ a single hook, even if it means more frequent rebaiting when "rats" gnat at baits. Perhaps that's why some sharpies stay with quarter-crabs, small greens, or even fiddlers which may not produce quite as well out East. Small baits simply won't twist as badly. Incidentally, to avoid having the terminal strand twist around your main line, try using a few feet of heavy leader material above the three-way swivel and then fasten the whole affair to your main line with some sort of shock leader connection, an Albright or a Uni-Loop.

Last season, we were quite pleased with 12 pound dacron instead of our standard mono. Not only do strikes register well on dacron, but hook setting is positive because of the lack of stretch. Again, a Uni-loop or a similar knot provides a 5 to 8 foot mono tip for the dacron if you wish.

Speaking of strikes, we try not to get drawn into the great controversy over when you really hit a tautog. It seems that with dacron lines and medium action graphite rods, the tug that registers when old bucktooth has the bait back in the pharyngeal teeth and turns away is solid. In fact, you sometimes feel it in your shoulder blades. The nips that occur when small or large tautog pick apart a bait in their canines and back off are lighter, almost like the raps of porgies. "Jab on the heavy tug, never on the nips," says the old rule.

Art Ludlow admires a big North Fork "tog."

Bear in mind that there will be days when tautog become greedy and glom on to hard baits or when you've got hermits or soft baits and there's no fooling around. Tug and strike! However, John Rainis of Greenport's Blue Albatross feels there are problems with hermits because of the off-and-on feeding pattern. "When everybody is fishing with green crabs and one guy breaks out hermits, you're in trouble, because the blackfish switch over and won't hit any other bait. That's why I won't let people fish hermits unless we all do!" In fact, if other craft approach party boats while blackfishng, the crafty skippers may go over to hermits in order to create a temporary exclusive leap job, driving the competition away in anger and frustration after a short period. Fortunately for the tempers and sanity of all concerned, hermits, "the cheater's bait," are generally in short supply out east unless one has a contact with scallopers.

For all that you do to perfect blackfishing techniques, there will always be incidents that redden your face and make you feel like an idiot anyway. Take the beautiful November day we had off Mulford Point a season ago with a perfect setup, smooth water and a tide that had just begun to run. It had taken us inordinately long, some six drops, to finally locate a craggy bottom on the last of the flood, but the fishing was building beautifully on the start of the ebb. First our partners got a few two pound rats, then a nice four pounder, then we singed our thumbs and strained our wrists with an obstinate 7½ pound bulldog. All of a sudden, while unhooking the big fish in the net, we turned and saw the angler in the bow heaving and hauling on his 40 pound gut-buster. Could this be it—the tautog of a lifetime? Nope, our partner, who must go nameless, had snagged and actually lifted the 20 pound anchor, forcing us to curse ourselves for showing him how to tie perfect knots.

The boat swung free and drifted downtide as we cried in frustration. By the time we relocated in the area, the fish had been disturbed and the bite was over. Finis!

Tautog and temper tantrums seem to go together so well!

SALMON RIVER STEELHEAD

by Rich Giessuebel

As fall arrives and the average daily temperatures begin to go down, New York State anglers head for the Great Lakes. The famed Salmon River is the usual destination where they know they will be able to encounter the giant king salmon. All through September and October, they catch kings up to 40 pounds. As late October begins to roll in and the nights are showing signs of winter chills, the first large steelhead trout begin to show. Often, they hang down towards the mouth of the river, but some venture forth and are available to streamside anglers.

These first run steelhead are the most thrilling fish in the entire world to catch. Battled on rather light 8' steelhead tackle, they can generate long arduous runs leaping buzz saw-style high up and out of the river. The word "backing" comes into play here, because even with 15 pound test lines, they can peel off 100 yards of line in the river. So, make certain to have plenty of line on your reel, and a good thing might be to remember to bring a spool of extra line along with you, just so that if you lose some line to a snag and the rest to a steelhead, you won't have to search all over town for more line.

Of course, there are still giant kings in the river during this time. However, for the most part, they have been in the river for some time and aren't the same fighters that they are in September. Also, the water is somewhat colder, and this can take away from their fighting abilities. You can land these big kings on steelhead tackle, but be very careful to do battle out in the middle of the river, because if the king gets into the bank with all of its tangles, you can kiss him goodbye.

Equipment that you will need should begin with your rod and reel. Whereas for kings, we preach four series reels, packed full of 20 pound test lines; for steelhead you should get three series reels packed full of 8 to 10 pound test lines. Most preferred is the 8 pound test. Now, what is meant by a series 3 reel? Well, most companies designate their reels with a number. A series 3 number could be either 3, 30, 300 or 3000. For example, a Ryobi MX-30 is a 3 series reel. Other reels might read for heavy freshwater and light saltwater fishing. These reels are usually geared to pack from 8 to 15 pound test lines. Such reels have drags which are made to stand up to powerful fish and can be used on the Great Lake's monsters. In fact, last year several of my friends landed their biggest kings using just such reels during this late season.

For rods, you have a choice of large 9 to 11 foot noodle sticks, or the readily available 8 foot steelhead rods. The difference is that if you are going to fish very light line, such as 2 to 6 pound test, the noodle stick will be a better choice. This is because the rod is so flexible, it takes the brunt of the beating allowing you to get away with the lighter line. But, with 8 lb. test and up, the standard steelhead rods are all you will need.

The 8 lb. test line you buy, should be quality line. DuPont, Cortland, Ande or Berkley all make quality lines. Also, as the weather gets colder, try to fish the more flexible lines.

For hooks, fish salmon egg hooks size 6 or 8. Best baits are simple. A single egg will score as readily as an egg sac; however, it is much more difficult to cast the single egg. Try Mike's Big Boy eggs. These eggs have a much larger diameter than the regular salmon eggs. They fit well on the larger egg hooks. You can also fish a sack of eggs on a steelhead hook!

Now, listen to this! Almost everyone you read tells you to fish with weight. The reason for this is because the steelhead feed down on the bottom of the river, very much like fishing for early spring trout. But, there are so many river snags that it is next to impossible to fish effectively without connecting with the bottom every other cast. Therefore, try to fish without any weight! Here's how to accomplish this. Attach a split shot weight directly to the shank of the hook. Put the salmon egg, cluster, or the sack over the hook and the weight. Now, you do not have any free swinging weights which can get caught on the bottom. Also, you know that when your egg stops drifting through the section of river you are fishing, it is either a boulder stopping the egg, or a steelhead. Far less tangles are encountered fishing this way.

There are a few problems created though. If the section of river holding the steelhead is on the other side of the river, and you must make very long and accurate casts, you may have to fish standard style and with more weight. Also, if the river is so swift that your egg and split shot combination can't be felt bumping the bottom from time to time, you may have to fish standard. However, if the flow is slow enough, and the cast is short enough, you don't have to risk tangles fishing a standard steelhead rig. Try fishing the hook with the split shot attached directly to it. It works!

Don't forget your Polaroid glasses. Last year, while fishing the little "Black Hole," we could see big fish investigating our baits meant for king salmon. Since it was late October and even though we had not heard of any steelies in the river, we went back to the car and got out our steelhead outfits. Using 6 pound test line, we caught over six steelhead weighing up to 17 pounds. Since we had already caught two kings apiece, we could only keep one more fish apiece. The two steelhead we kept weighed 16 and 17 pounds. We also released several equally as large. Now, if it was not for the Polaroid glasses, we would not have known that there were fish investigating our baits on the 20 pound test outfits and we would probably not have caught any steelhead that day.

Why should you try for these early steelhead? Well, if you are fortunate enough to catch one of these early runners, you will understand that they fight better than any fish you have ever caught. They are 80 percent stronger than the winter run steelhead. This is because the water is warmer, and their metabolism can strictly feed their fighting energies. Once hooked, look out! On occasions, the fish gets so far away from you, that is around a bend and you think it's all over. But, for some unknown reason, after first running downstream, the steelhead turns and heads directly into the current. Back he comes, right past you. Now, if you can keep him in sight, he will be yours.

Fights with these strong fall fish can last over 20 minutes. Other nearby anglers must give way and allow you all the stream you require to fight the fish. If they do not, you will most certainly tangle their lines and your prize will be off.

Since you must walk in order to keep up with the fish, you should be wearing something on the bottom of your waders. Felt, and "Korkers" are advisable, but we use Walt's Walkers which seem to stay on your feet better and which easily accomplish the job. If you cannot get hold of these walkers, Walt can be reached at P.O. Box 32, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. Walt invites dealer inquiries. The walkers are actually a pair of rubbers with golf cleats through them. Order your size and the rubbers will fit right over your boot. Also, Walt guarantees the rubbers for "life."

Where do these early steelhead reside in the river? Just like their

winter followers, these big first run steelies seek out the swiftest currents and lies. Look for them right alongside flat long pieces of bottom rock. Look for them to be opening and closing their white mouths. This is a sure giveaway of their presence. As your bait passes such locations, watch for anything moving quickly out to investigate the bait. Should your line stop for any reason, consider the stoppage a strike and react by coming up with your rod tip to either pull the hooks into the fish or to allow the eggs to pull free of the snag and continue their drift.

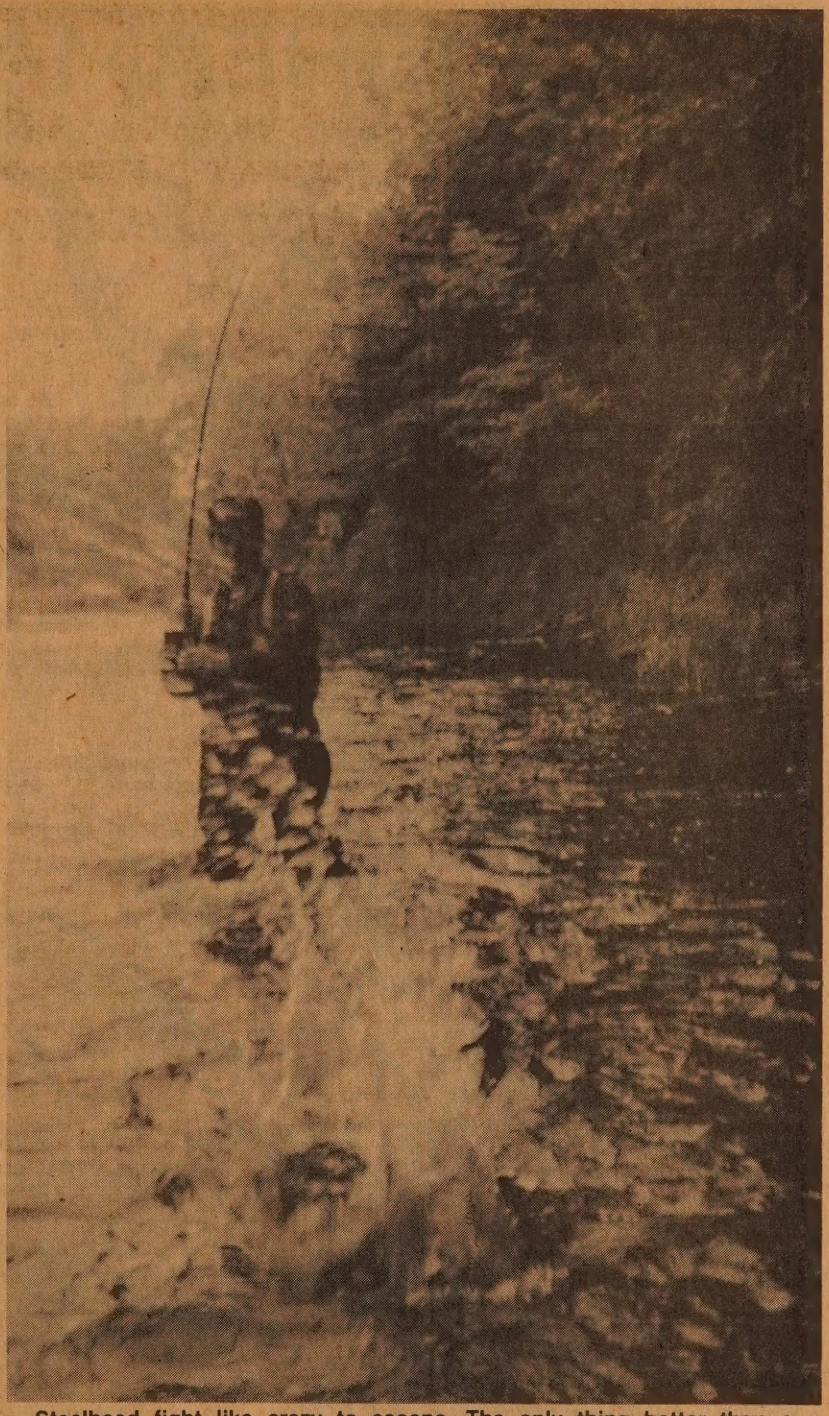
If it is a fish, expect him to swim downstream at first and turn to come back upstream. You can expect him to clear the water several times, and you can expect him to fight as hard as you can imagine. If you are used to winter steelheading, you will know that you do not often have to chase fish. You can whip them from a single spot, however, when the water's warm, this is not the case.

Another way to catch early steelhead is with lures. Hot Shots work well, as well as Mepp's spinners. With the Hot Shots, you stand at the head of the pool and allow the lure to float into position. Once above where you think there might be a fish or two lying, engage your reel, and pull the lure into action. It will begin wiggling and settle down into the current. Its motion aggravates the steelhead who really slug the lure when they want it. Once the first fish strikes a lure fished like this, you'll be back for more!

Another approach is to cast Mepp's spinners upstream. Allow them to settle deeply into the run. As they are about to swing around with the current, you should begin bringing the lure back to you. The key is to allow it to get deep. The best Mepp's lures for this type of fishing are the size 3 and 4 Aglias and Long Aglias. The one-third ounce lure with the Redbo Scale or Fluorescent finish seem to be very effective. They can be fished with a bucktail hook or plain. We have had most of our success using the plain treble hooks.

While casting the Mepp's Spinners upstream, remember, you want to get the lure down deep. Therefore, you have to play the speed of the current at the position you are fishing. If it is very strong, cast more upstream than across stream. If the current isn't as strong, you can cast well up and across the stream. Success on the salmon river is much head play. You have to be thinking all the time.

Some good locations to try for early steelies are at Stair Case Pool just west of Long Bridge in the City of Pulaski. From this point, you can walk west in the river to the Black Hole, the Little Black Hole, and several unnamed locations heading towards the Clay Pool. Right after the Clay Pool you come to the mouth of the river at Port Ontario. This area holds early steelheads better than anywhere else. The river is about 6 to 8 feet deep at low water and there's a strong current. At high water, this area is unfishable from streamside.



Steelhead fight like crazy to escape. The only thing better than a December steelhead is an October steelhead while the water is warmer.

What is meant by high and low water? Well, if you have never been to the Salmon River, you would not be aware that there is a daily release of water from the Salmon River Reservoir dam to run a hydro-electric plant to furnish electricity for Syracuse. The water rises daily around 1PM in the area of the river just touted. It rises so high that you can't stand in the river in most places and fish. Yet, when the water comes up, it does turn the steelhead on and they can be readily caught. Most of these fish are taken at the heads of pools. In order to get in on the action, you have to be in position at the head of one of these pools and be able to get your bait to pass the waiting steelhead before the fun can begin.

Well, much luck is involved here. The fish must arrive while you are on the stream, or you must have a trip scheduled during this period when the fish move in. But, if everything clicks, you will be in for the greatest fishing experience anyone could ever imagine.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 BILLFISHING'S LARGEST PAYOFF WAS $78,400 FIRST PRIZE TO CAPT. BOB GOODWIN OF MASSACHUSETTS WHO BOATED THE BIGGEST MARLIN IN THE INTERNAT'L. BILLFISH LEAGUE'S $196,000 TOURNAMENT IN THE BAHAMAS. WHAT MADE THIS CONTEST DIFFERENT FROM MOST OTHERS ?------

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

2 BLUEFISH ARE SELDOM FOUND OVER 8 YEARS OLD WHEN THEY AVERAGE 32 INCHES AND USUALLY WEIGH OVER 15 LBS.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

3 EVERY RAPALA LURE TODAY IS A "WOBBLER" WITH 30,000 PER DAY TURNED OUT AT THE FINLAND FACTORY. THE TOTAL NUMBER MADE TO DATE IS ---

60 MILLION ☐
70 MILLION ☐
80 MILLION ☐

4 SALMON RETURN FROM THE OCEAN TO SPAWN IN THE STREAMS OF THEIR BIRTH, BUT SOME GET LOST AND CAN'T FIND THEIR WAY HOME. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED ERROR FACTOR?

10 PERCENT ☐
15 PERCENT ☐
20 PERCENT ☐

5 THIS POPULAR PANFISH IS A---

GOGGLE EYE ☐
WARMOUTH ☐
ROCK BASS ☐
RED EYE ☐

6 HOW MANY SPECIES OF FLYING FISHES ARE THERE ? ALSO HOW BIG DO THEY GET, AND ARE THEY EDIBLE, A "*FISHERMAN*" READER ASKS ?

1 - THE MARLIN WERE TAGGED, RELEASED AND THEIR WEIGHTS ESTIMATED. 2 - TRUE. 3 - 70 MILLION. 4 - 15 PER CENT. 5 - ALL ARE COMMON NAMES FOR THE SAME FISH. 6 - THERE ARE 50 SPECIES WORLDWIDE, LARGEST IS *CALIFORNIA* FLYING FISH OF SO. PACIFIC (18 IN.), OTHER SPECIES RUN 10-12 IN. THESE FISH CONSIDERED A DELICACY IN WEST INDIES AND JAPAN. THEY ARE CAUGHT AT NIGHT WITH LIGHTS & GILL NETS.

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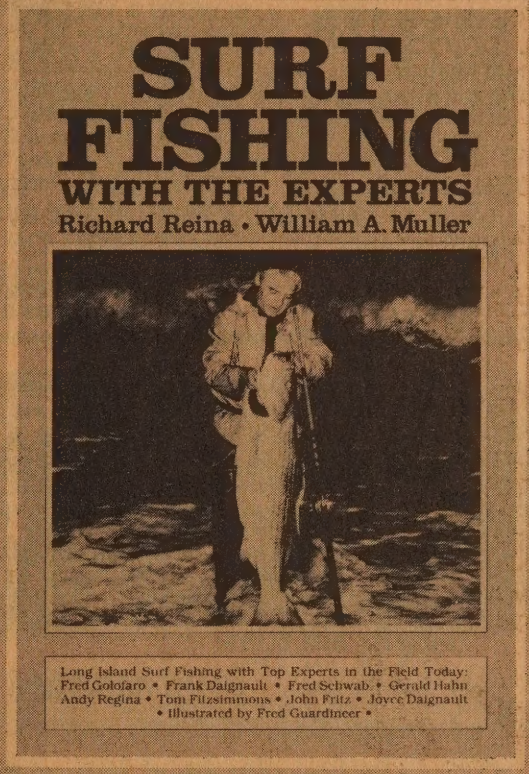
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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

No one can predict the effects of this weekend's storm on offshore (tuna and shark) fishing. However, blackfish, flounder and cod had picked up before and even during the storm. Hungry bluefish are schooled and eager to be caught. Vast schools of false albacore were moving out of the Sound, traveling toward Montauk. Flounder of very good size are taking baits in Sag Harbor and Shinnecock as well as Montauk. Striped bass, mixed with weakfish were caught at Montauk. Stripers are under the blues around Gardiner's and the Gut. Porgy action slowed during the full moon, but will pick up again—porgies to 4 lbs. have been reported.

MONTAUK

Gremlins apparently got into the **Eagle's** fishing report last week. Of course, the **Eagle** is booking black and blue inshore fishing trips at least until Election Day. Captain Laier will be happy to provide you with charter information on these and winter codfish trips.

Captain Joe McBride has a few bass dates open for October weekends. The bass are in now. Call him for charter information regarding the **My-Mate.**

Dr. Sherer had an enjoyable and

Kevin Lynch with a 32 lb. pollock and Filex Bonao with a 26 pounder. Both were taken at Coxes Ledge aboard t he "Viking Star."

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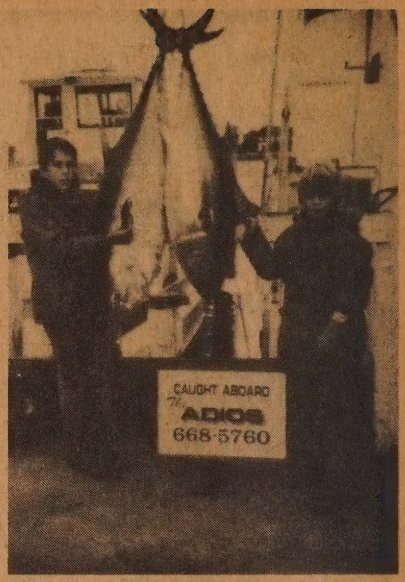

Ten-year-old Daren Gough and eight-year-old Loren Gough had the thrill of a lifetime catching the 100 and 80 lb. bluefins during a Montauk trip aboard the "Adios."

productive half day charter on the **Vivienne** last Thursday. Using bucktails and working close to the beaches seven weakfish, the largest 13 lbs. and eight bass were taken. As many short bass were released. Captain DeMaio trolled a 40 lb. bass in the morning. Captain DeMaio feels that bass are coming in stronger now that the storm has passed. A good bass season is in store.

Frank Burk and a group from Prudential Insurance caught 31 bass to 22 lbs. on a half day charter on the **King Wayne** on October 4th. The next day was devoted to tuna when Ed Parker and his group boated 18 tuna to 58 lbs. Last Sunday (Oct. 7th) Chuck Shimonura and his group first fished for tuna at the Butterfish Hole, then settled in for large sea bass and over 60 porgies at Great Eastern on the way home. A **King Wayne** codfish trip on Oct. 12th produced 38 codfish, top weight 25 lbs., on the CIA grounds despite dogfish.

Captain Chuck Mallinson feels that we are in for a good showing of bass at Montauk once the winds settle. A group from General Foods Corp. fished on Wednesday and Thursday on the **Joy-Sea**, catching and releasing hundreds of very large bluefish; a few bass also were hooked.

A charter on Capt. Rochetta's **Rainbow II** just after the full moon will never be forgotten by a group from the Lady Reelers Fishing Club. Ten stripers were caught, notably one of 46½ lbs. by Carol Jaspers; a 39½ lb. fish by Alice Malinhoff and a 35½ lb. bass by Phyllis Hooker.

Captain Phil Lewis fished Cartwright blues most of the week, doing very well. Thursday, Dr. Roome chartered the **Adios** for his first tuna trip ever and was happy to land a 40 lb. bluefin early in the trip. Because the fish at the Butterfish Hole were running on the small side, 40 lb. tackle was used. Naturally, a large tuna took a bait and was fought for over 3 hours before it broke off. The fish surfaced at one point, estimated weight about 175 lbs.

As of this writing, no one knows if there are any tuna within easy reach of Montauk, since the cooling effects of the storm may have driven them away.

Last Thursday, two tuna and a small mako were taken at the Butterfish Hole and brought into **Captain's Cove Marina.** Anglers on the marina boat, Jinx, were Harry Smith, Nat Segal and Howard Glickberg. Joan has seen large flounder which were caught at Rocky Point. She reported that large blackfish were taking green crabs at Shagwong. Porgies seemed to slow down at the full moon. An increase in bass catches was evidenced this week. **Mistress Too** berthed a at the marina caught bass as late as Saturday morning.

Spurred on by the fluke report given me by Captain Fritz of the **Toots**, Elliott Feder and I fished the South Side (off the Radar Station) on a **Uihlein's** 24 ft. Proline on Tuesday. We returned with 45 fluke, top weight 5½ lbs. Several bluefish took our fluke bellies as well. Elliott returned to the scene on Thursday for more fluke. Henry Uihlein fished on Outer

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Shagwong on Tuesday, finding flounder, blackfish, sea bass and porgies. On Wednesday a trip to Cartwright with new nephew Roy and friend Joey Miller resulted in the largest kind of bluefish—three dozen of them.

Captain Paul Forsberg will sail at 9PM Friday night for the **Starship's** last Nantucket trip of the season. **The Viking** fishing schedule has been changed this week. Giant codfish will be on the menu on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Night blue trips will take place every Wednesday and Saturday nights until the fish leave in November.

The **Marlin IV** is doing a number on sea bass and porgies. Check ad for details.

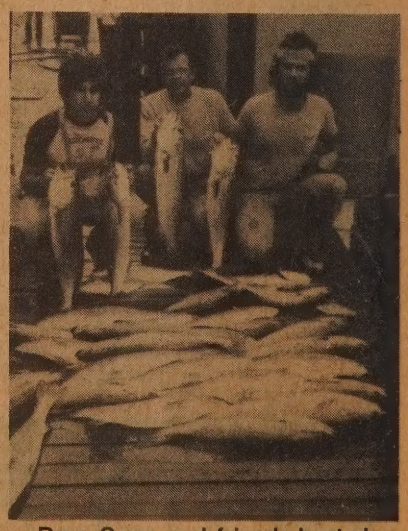
Winning the Full Moon Bass Tournament at the **Montauk Marine Basin** was Kurt Braunstein who caught a 45½ lb. bass on his boat, Bonita. Perhaps because the large fish was weighed early in the tournament, only about 20 bass were weighed in, according to Hope, spokesperson for the Marina.

Mrs. Elaine Hunt (Magician) submitted this tuna recipe: cut tuna into chunks. Marinate in mixture of wine, garlic and olive oil for a few hours. Coat pieces with flour or dry bisquick. Brown with onions in half butter, half oil. After browning, add tomato sauce and sliced peppers. Cover, simmer 1/2 hour.

Interested in using hermit crabs for blackfish bait? A videotape showing how to obtain these choice baits and how to use them will be featured on **Fishing Forecast** on Friday night. Brookhaven Cable TV, channel 6, 6PM.

SOUTH FORK

Saturday's blackfish trip on the **Wilhelric** based in Sag Harbor will



Dave Croco and friends boated 31 weaks on jig and tube combos aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	2:25	2:40	3:10	3:40	2:50	3:15	4:15	4:30	5:35	5:55	5:50	6:15	2:35	3:05	10/18
FRI.	3:35	3:55	4:20	4:45	4:10	4:30	5:20	5:35	6:45	7:10	7:00	7:20	3:40	4:05	10/19
SAT.	4:45	5:05	5:25	5:45	5:20	5:40	6:20	6:35	8:00	8:25	8:00	8:25	4:40	5:05	10/20
SUN.	5:45	6:05	6:25	6:45	6:20	6:40	7:10	7:35	9:10	9:35	8:55	9:20	5:35	6:00	10/21
MON.	6:40	6:55	7:15	7:40	7:10	7:30	8:00	8:25	10:05	10:30	9:50	10:15	6:25	6:50	10/22
TUES.	7:25	7:45	8:05	8:30	8:00	8:20	8:50	9:20	10:55	11:25	10:40	11:10	7:15	7:40	10/23
WED.	8:15	8:30	8:55	9:20	8:45	9:10	9:35	10:05	11:40	—	11:30	—	8:00	8:25	10/24
THURS.	9:00	9:20	9:45	10:10	9:35	10:00	10:25	10:55	12:15	12:30	12:00	12:15	8:50	9:15	10/25

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/18	7:16	6:14
FRI. 10/19	7:18	6:12
SAT. 10/20	7:19	6:11
SUN. 10/21	7:20	6:09
MON. 10/22	7:21	6:08
TUE. 10/23	7:22	6:07
WED. 10/24	7:23	6:06

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/18	—	3:15PM
FRI. 10/19	12:51AM	3:53PM
SAT. 10/20	2:06AM	4:26PM
SUN. 10/21	3:23AM	4:56PM
MON. 10/22	4:40AM	5:23PM
TUE. 10/23	5:57AM	5:51PM
WED. 10/24	7:15AM	6:20PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/24	10/31	11/8	11/16

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:10	6:20	12:30	6:50
Fri.	1:05	7:10	1:20	7:40
Sat.	1:55	8:05	2:15	8:30
Sun.	2:45	8:50	3:00	9:20
Mon.	3:35	9:40	3:50	10:05
Tues.	4:20	10:25	4:35	10:55
Wed.	5:10	11:15	5:25	11:45
Thurs.	6:00	—	6:20	12:15

CAPTREE

Leaves From Right Side Of Dock

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STARTS MON., 9-17 - 8 AM DAILY (Full Day)

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BLACKS
PORGIES
SEA BASS
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— FULL DAY —

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SAILING DAILY FROM CENTER OF DOCK
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
Is Everyone's Responsibility

probably go down in history because of 1) sea conditions and 2) amount of fish caught. Over 1,000 blackfish were caught on green crabs and clams on only one anchor drop. The boat returned to dock at 1:30PM; however, the mate was filleting fish until 10:30PM. Typical catches included the 50 blackfish caught by Pedro Loran who also took the pool with a 6 lb. fish. George, on his day off from the Hicksville Post Office, accounted for 70 blackfish. Some day!

Captain Lach remarked on the abundance of bluefish, particularly in the Gut and Gardiner's Rip, with all you want. Regulars fishing live eels or bucktails have been doing well on bass in the Gut at night.

Although high winds over the weekend prohibited fishing on rentals from **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in Sag Harbor, Chris Salb looks forward to a good flounder run, since the fish usually are abundant and eager to be caught at least until the beginning of December.

Helen Jacobsen will now open **Noyac Marina** at 8AM daily for fall flounder.

Thom Speckenbach, **Speck's Bait and Tackle**, is looking forward to the best kind of fall fishing as indicated by the loads of fish, both blackfish and bluefish caught by adventurous fishermen during the weekend's blow. He is stocked up with plenty of bait—worms, clams, crabs for the weekend.

Mickey Altenkirch told me about a codfish trip which took place last Thursday: Joe Hauger fished on My Rosemarie on the Bridge Wreck, about a mile from Shinnecock Inlet. He and his friends did not weigh all the codfish caught, just the largest: 32½, 20 lbs. 6 oz., 18 lbs. 2 oz. Bluefish to 16¼ lbs. were also on the wreck. A 2 lb. 6 oz. flounder was caught by Henry Bergamachi, one of 32 flatfish caught during the storm on Saturday in Shinnecock Bay and weighed at **Altenkirch & Son** in Hampton Bays. Although snappers appear to have left the area, flounder and blackfish are a good bet in the Canal. Bay blues are getting scarce,

This fine catch of fall flatties came from Moriches Bay on October 7th. Matt and John Viol did the catching while fishing out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

CAPTREE

7AM BLACKFISH • SEABASS • PORGIES •

CAPTREE QUEEN II

7 P.M. BLUES

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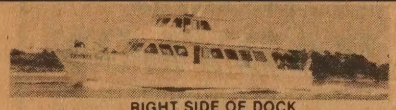

RIGHT SIDE OF DOCK

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SPEEDY VII
BLUES! 7A.M. & 7P.M. DAILY
Capt. Nick Manzari
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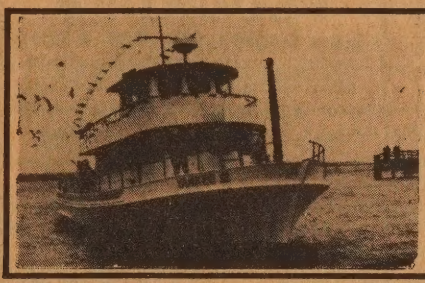
EDELMAN'S REEL TESTED



FEATURING BLUEFISH
Days/Nites ★ Weekdays/Weekends

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JIB VI FLOUNDER
2 HALF DAY TRIPS DAILY
8 AM - NOON & 1 PM - 5 PM
WORMS, ALL BAIT & TACKLE SUPPLIED
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SR. CIT'S. & CHILD. RATES EVERY DAY
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RIGHT SIDE OF DOCK, NEAR BAIT STATION

however, ocean blues remain steady.

Larry Mangarillo was surprised at a catch of fluke, last Wednesday in the E. Channel and under the Ponquogue bridge, brought into **Corr's Fishing Station** in Hampton Bays. The fall flounder run is starting—the fishing station will have rental boats available until early December. The concrete launch ramp at the fishing station can easily handle the large trailerable boats.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

The effects of Hurricane Josephine kept most anglers in this area at bay and completely eliminated any ocean fishing since Friday. Gale force winds badly churned the bays which severely effected the results of flounder fans. Yes, there were folks out flounder fishing on the weekend despite the weather. Prior to the blow, flounder fishing was showing increased improvement in both bays with some very good fishing being found in Moriches Bay. Blackfish were still solid in their usual haunts through much of last week and crabbers made some of their best catches of the year last week.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

"Just a terrible weekend" said Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**. No boats were allowed out on Sunday although a couple did managed to get in a couple of hours on Saturday. Prior to the storm, floundering was good to excellent south of Haven's Point on the flats. Most boats returned with from 30 to 60 flatties with many of them in the 1-2 pound range. On Thursday, Walter and Eddie Kotnick returned with over 60 big flatties. Gary added that there are lots of big blue claws around now and many are grabbing baits meant for flounder. He suggested bringing a net along on your flounder trips.

Joe Rechner of Center Moriches made the most of a Rebel plug given to him by his daughter as a recent gift. Fishing from his boat in the West Cut of the Inlet on Thursday morning, Joe nailed a 35.6 pound striper on 10 lb. test line. On Wednesday, Terrance Stoner of the private boat 'Spicy' ran to 150' of water south of Moriches. While only one 30 pound tuna was boated, the crew did have lots of runoffs which indicated a significant number of fish in the area. Its doubtful that there will be a return to this action after the storm.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

"Some decent flounder fishing now available to those working the local docks with worms" according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. No one did much of anything over the weekend so reports are very scant. There was very good blackfishing before the storm at Kismet and the Moriches Jetty. Flounder fishing improved during the week on both sides of the Smith Point Bridge.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** said that there were some fair catches of flounder made in the State Channel between Babylon and Lindenhurst before all the wind. Some fish were also being taken in the Sore Thumb Pocket and the first catches were being made at Buoy 5, Heckscher before the storm churned the bay. Blackfishing had been good

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Dave Carollo and friend with Captain Frank Signorelli and Dave's 94 lb. white marlin. It was taken aboard the Seaford based charter boat, "3 Sea-Sons."

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at the Reef and Barge and there were blues outside of the inlet through Thursday. White perch, with many in the 1-2 pound range moved into the Connetquot River about 2 weeks ago. Youngsters were doing very well with the fish. Some nice trout between 14" and two pounds being taken out of Bubbles and Rattles at night and in the early AM on salmon eggs and nightcrawlers.

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore** labelled the weekend a total loss and referred back to last week for his report. There were good numbers of blacks still on the Kismet Reef and the Oak Beach Barge and a fair pick of flounder in Dickerson Channel, the Babylon Cut and at the Sore Thumb. There were still some porgies and some sea bass at the WR Buoy and West Channel before all the wind. Sea bass fishing on the Ocean Reef was super last week and there was a mixture of mostly blues, weak and albacore on jigs at the Whistle Buoy through Wednesday of last week. Crabbing has caught many people by surprise. Both quality and quantity are there now. On Wednesday night, one customer returned from the Captree Bridge with a bushel and a half of big blue claws.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** said that despite the weather on Saturday and Sunday he anchored over the Kismet Reef and enjoyed some pretty good action with blacks. On Saturday catches of 6-10 fish per man were the norm. Sunday's high hook had 20 tautogs. Neil reminded that he will be switching over to flounder beginning this Saturday.

Over at **Captree** the weekend did see a good number of the boats join the flounder chase despite the horrible conditions. Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** was one of those who managed to pick a few fish under the severe conditions. Fishing had begun to show signs of improvement prior to the blow. Gordon made note of his new fall schedule which gets underway on Thursday, October 18th when he will be sailing 7AM daily for sea bass, blacks and porgies on the Ocean Reef. Night bluefishing continued excellent before conditions became so bad that no one even dared get near the inlet. The fish are big and being taken on bait fished near the bottom.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the **Captree** open boat **Miss Captree** spoke of very good blackfishing with plenty of porgies and an increasing number of blackfish being taken on the ocean reef before all the wind and rough seas. Carl did feel that the fishing would bounce back as soon as the seas subside. This should be by the time you read this report.

Capt. John Cuzzo of the charter boat **Afterglo** called to say that Joel, Joe and Frank of Outlet Floors loaded up on big blues Tuesday night. They used bait fished down on the bottom.

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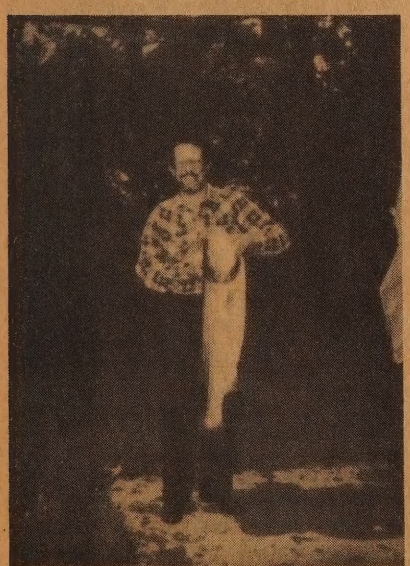

Rev. Vincent Marchese proudly displays his first surf caught striper. The 17¼ pounder was taken on the North Babylon angler's first cast during a late September trip to Cedar Beach Overlook. It was weighed at The Store in Oak Beach.

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Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** based **Capt. Scotty 3** called the night bluefish action super during the week, the weekend was obviously weathered out. On Thursday night, there were a trio of extraordinary blues taken. The largest was a 21 pounder, followed by a 20 and an 18.8 pounder. The 18.8 is the current leader in the boat's bluefish derby. George is doing most of his fishing in 100' of water south of the inlet with sinker rigs and bait.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Bill Stramezzi reported a 48 pound striper livelined in Fire Island Inlet during the day on Thursday. The big cow was boated by Vinnie DiMartino. The Babylon Tuna Club held its annual flounder affair over the weekend despite the weather. Artie Orlandi took the top spot with a 1.8 pound flounder. Gaspar Garraputo nailed down second place with a 1.4 pounder while Bobby Schwartz needed only a 1 pound fish to take third place. In general, flounder fishing has improved with some fair catches being made east of Bergen Point off of the Swimming Pool and also on the flats south of Good Sam. Friday, Bill fished with Dick Orlandi on the shop owner's 'Three Sons'. They wound up trolling 20 blues to 15 pounds in 60' of water south of Kismet.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani told of fair flounder fishing in the East-West Channel off of Lindenhurst and also off of Bergen Point. He looked over a catch of 30 flatties made on Friday just south of Wellwood Ave. The fish averaged ½ to ¾ of a pound but a 2¼ pounder did find its way into the bucket. Plenty of blacks still on the Kismet Reef prior to the storm and big blues were solid at the Whistle Buoy through most of last week. Blue claw crabs have been big and abundant from local docks and at the bridge. Mike saw 3 dozen taken off of Lindenhurst at night.

Over in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** said that flounder are now established in the back bays along with the State Channel. Chum, either clam or mussel is important. A few weaks were mixed with the blues in 40' of water SE of Fire Island inlet on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Also the F.I. Ocean Reef was alive with porgies, sea bass and blacks prior to the big heave and wind.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Fishing up until the weekend's storm was very strong both offshore for blues with a good scattering of weaks and stripers while the bay was equally hot for flounder and blackfish in particular. By-catches of small sea bass and porgies were also found in good numbers. Hopefully by the time you read these reports, the water will have cleared up and the bottom settled down and fishing will be back to where it was.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

We heard from **Pop's Fishing Station** in Seaford that flounder action picked up with the cooler waters that moved in prior to the storm, with best action both east and west of the Wantagh bridges. Massapequa Cove was a hotspot. Sizes have improved also, noted John. Blackfishing has been very good at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges with some blowfish, kingfish, snappers and flounder mixed in.

Aboard the open boat **Chinco III**, flounder catches were very good Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with high hooks in the 50s each day. Of course, things slowed Saturday and Sunday with the storm conditions. Flounder sizes have increased dramatically each day said Captain Brian, with worms working best fishing the Wantagh and Masspequa areas. The boat is now sailing a new weekend schedule, sailing at 7:30AM and returning 12:30 PM.

From **Wanser's Tackle** came reassuring news of good flounder and blackfishing through Friday prior to the storm. Flounder were hot at 4 Corners, Massapequa Cove and Merrick Bay, while blackfish did their act

Eleven-year-old Patti Mae Burke shows the pool winning fluke she decked during a recent trip aboard the "Miss Point Lookout."

at all bridges and wrecks. Bass and blues from the Gilgo Field Six and West End beaches. See Fred's surf report for details.

Sailing out of Freeport, skipper Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** noted that he had a load of jigged blues Monday fishing Farms while Tuesday customers both jigged and baited and chummed BIG blues at Ambrose and Cholera. Wednesday through Friday the skipper said was an all out slaughter on big bluefish up to 19 lbs. 4 oz.

From the **Bluefin Fleet** Captin Sy Karlin told of Monday's tuna trip with 11 tuna taken up to 150 lbs. The big fish was taken by John Soisson of Brewster, NY. During the week bluefish high hook was 40 plus for Doug Serbst. Tom Moy had a 9 lb. weak. Bluefish have been taken from 3 to 18 lbs. The day bluefishing trips have been excellent as have the nights. Thursday fish ran to 18 lbs. with high hook 26. The boat is jigging days, baiting nights.

A call from the charter boat **Lady J III** told of big bluefish caught at 17 Fathoms by groups from Briarcliff Manor Fire Dept. and the Bill McAward group. Saturday's trip was forced to fish the bay due to the weather with Black Rock Fishing Club from upstate New York picking away at flounder. Sunday's trip for the North Merrick Fire Dept. had a little better flounder action. Fish averaged 3/4 lbs. working Swift Creek, Merrick Bay and Long Creek.

From the **Capt. Lou Fleet** comes word of good fluking through Friday and good fishing Saturday and Sunday even with the poor conditions.

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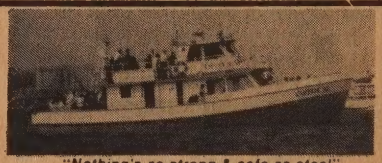

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Aboard the **CL III**, high hooks most days ran in the 50s, while aboard the half day boat the **CL V** catches were nearly as good. On Wednesday Jerry Cohen had 60 flatties. Thursday's AM trip saw 94-year-old Vince Tagliarino celebrate his birthday with 25 flatties including a triple header. Sunday's pool went to Joe Ferrara with a flounder said to weigh 3 lbs. 5 oz. Jim Crawford had 25 flounder in Sunday's wind.

The Freeport Boatmens Association charter boats all fished inside on the weekend and picked away at the flounder working the south end of Swift and Merrick Bay. Fishing was productive and the fish of good sizes. On Friday, the Norseman loaded up on giant blues at Cholera on bait and chum. Through Friday open bottom fishing for the **Super Spray II** has been very good with solid numbers of sea bass and blackfish being caught along with equally solid catches of porgies.

Over in Point Lookout, we hear from Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** of Monday's Bay trip for Ed Sherian having a super catch at the Big M in the AM on porgies, sea bass, blacks, flounder, fluke and blows while in the PM it was strictly a flounder pick in Long Creek and Reynolds. Matt Sherian, age 10, had 41 flounder. Thirteen-yr-old Terris King had 48 flounder. Ten year old Mike Passalacqua had a flounder over 2 lbs. and 25 to keep it company, while Keri King had 38. Saturday's trip saw flounder picked up to 1 lb. fishing Swift Creek, Long Creek and Freeport River. Catches averaged 5 to 15 a man on worm and chum in the winds and stirred up water.

Aboard the **Miss Point Lookout** we learned of Eric Monath and his 1¾ lb. pool flounder plus Marily and Bob Zupka and their 70 flounder. On Thursday Earl French took the pool with what the skipper described as a 3 lb. flounder and in the PM Brian and Carol Crowley bagged a 2 lb. pool winner plus 49 other flatties. Action fell off in the high winds of the weekend. High hooks have been in the 20s to 40s this week. Swift and Long Creeks have been best on bloodworms with the first of the flood best.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** told of very good flounder catches by the rental skiffs through Friday. Ed and Teddy on Friday had 25 big flounder fishing the flats using large pieces of worm. Flounder were also good at buoys 16 and 17, Swift Creek and off the CG station. Excellent blackfishing at all of the bridges and a lot of small sea bass and sand porgies around to fill out catches.

From **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook Charlie B spoke of great blackfishing with fish up to 7 lbs. at the bridges, wrecks and jetties in the area. Fiddlers and green crab work best. Flounder were no slouch in Reynolds Channel and its feeder

This huge weakfish, taken from the North Channel Bridge by Frank Filippone on October 2nd, weighed 17 lbs. more than 12 hours after it was landed. Taken on a bunker fillet, the trophy tiderunner was weighed at Cross Bay Bait and Tackle.

creeks, with fish thick and very filletable. Charlie advises you try plugging around the bridges in the AM hours, as bass and blues are cooperative targets.

A call from **Long Beach Sports Marina** spoke of the action before the storm consisting of good numbers of blackfish, flounder, weaks and blues. Don and Frank Durando had great blackfishing at the ABB with blacks to 4 lbs. on fiddlers. Ed Meyer and son on Saturday working behind Duck Point boated 10 flounder to an honest 3½ lbs. using sand worms and plenty of chum. Flounder have been fast at buoy 5 and the railroad trestle. Blues and weaks being trolled off the beaches with umbrellas and also being live lined at the bridges on bunker.

We learned from Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in Atlantic Beach that loads of blackfish were caught through Friday at the ABB and the jetties from Beach 9 to 28th Street. These were 2 to 3 lbers. that wanted fiddlers. Blues being trolled off Lido in 40 ft. of water and at 17 Fathoms on bait and chum for gorillas. There were still fluke being caught at Playland up to the storm. Good floundering on the south side of Reynolds east of the ABB and at the railroad trestle and off Cedarhurst yacht club.

NEW YORK BIGHT

A call to **Skippys Bait and Tackle** in East Rockaway put us in on the information regarding good flounder fishing through Friday in Hog Channel and at the railroad trestle spanning Reynolds. An anonymous angler caught an 18 lb. weakfish which was residing in Skippy's freezer at the time we spoke, however, location and manner of catch could not be divulged. Blackfishing was excellent this week through Friday and hopefully has recovered from the storm's effects by the time you read this.

Sailing out of Howard Beach, the **Capt. Mike** told of very good floundering. On Sunday, Pete Farinella and George Contino both of Howard Beach had over 100 flounder. Forty-three was the number for Olga Lizzul while Rich Hill had 10 doubles for the day. Both tides worked and bloodworms were the hook bait.

We learned from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** spanning Jamaica Bay that customers are getting lots of big bluefish in the area. A 17 lb. 15 oz. blue was caught by John Paul fishing the Marine Parkway Bridge using bunker chunks. A 17 lb. 15 oz. and 17 lb. 2 oz. blue were the reward for Jim McKay fishing the west end at Jones. A 10 and an 11 lb. 2 oz. albacore were taken off Manhattan Beach on bait. The south channel bridge produced a 17 lb. weak for Frank Sillippone on a bunker chunk. Lots of blackfish being cauht at all the bridges and wrecks on fiddlers and clam while a 10 lb. fluke was taken off the South Channel bridge. Small flounder are starting to hit the north and south channel bridges on worms.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay, we learned that the open boat **Zephyr** after enjoying an incredible fluke season has now switched to blackfish. Be advised that green crabs are available on board the vessel.

The open boat **Pastime II** which has been blackfishing and having good catches, has now switched to flounder due to customer demand. This boat w which also books charters also has some choice charter dates available, per the skipper.

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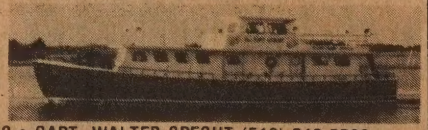
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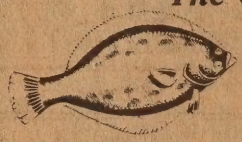
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The Wee Willie report out of **Mike's Tackle** across from the Fleet told that the bluefishing was very good until the storm hit with lots of big fish taken on bait and small ones taken on diamonds. The Tin Can Grounds has been producing 10 to 14 lb. blues on butters and bunker. Fluking is about over. Some flounder are showing but the blackfishing is super as evidenced by the solid catches of blacks and porgies aboard the **Pilot II**.

From Skipper Al Coley of the **Betty W. III** we learned of the boat's fantastic bluefishing this week on both jigs and bait and chum with fish mixed from 1 to 20 lbs. On Thursday the boat ran another of its famous Volcano trips with 11 fares decking 37 tuna from 100 to 240 pounds. These were all bfts with a load of albies and bonito mixed in. That trip was sailed Thursday and will be the last tuna Volcano trip of the year. There will be spring cod and pollock volcano trips upcoming.

From the charter boat **Avatar** we learned of last Sunday's trip for Don Knox and party from Our Children Enterprises, Brooklyn. The party of 3 socked it to 30 alligators on bait and chum along with some bonito and albies at the Klondike.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Hurricane Josephine kept eastenders home, or tending to moored boats, however, fishermen showed up by th dozens in the Western Sound and were rewarded with the best blackfishing of the season. Blues are fattening up, taking anything, in any kind of weather. Flounders are stirring and few snappers remain.

WESTERN SOUND

Despite rough seas and blowing winds, 40 dedicated fishermen showed up on the **Apache** on Sunday morning, averaging from 10-20 blackfish per angler. Most blackfish were in the 3-4 pound range, however the pool was taken with a nine pounder. Green crabs and fiddlers best bait. The boat fished Norwalk, Stanford and Center Island.

Captain Ferrara said that the **Sea King** has been doing well all week, whenever they can get out, primarily fishing Norwalk Island, using a double anchor for extra stability. Average catch is 10-20 blackfish per man with the pool fish usually around 10 lbs. Regular Jimmy Lane took the pool over the weekend with a 10 lb. black. A few porgies were taken on fiddler crabs. Several blacks have come up minus tails, evidence of big blues hanging around.

Betty DeCuffa of **Jacks Bait and Tackle** on City Island stated that locally there are lots of 2-4 lb. blackfish with a few flounders showing. Larger fish are on the Conneticut side, with party boats such as the **North Star II** pulling blacks to 10 lbs. daily. Bluefishing is slowing down.

The **Klondike VIII** is now regularly fishing blackfish, picking away at five to eight pound fish.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Friday's trip on the **Ever-Ready II** did very well on bluefish with an average of 20 fish per man. Most fish were in the 4-5 lb. range, however, the pool was won by an eight pounder. Captain Al Mott remarked that a few bass are caught each trip, with about half keepers in the Triangle. Although all tickets are sold out Saturday and Sunday (October 20th and 21st) the **Ever-Ready II** will fish a combination black & blue trip

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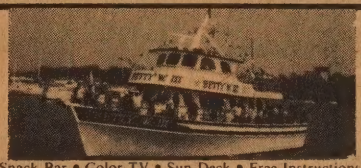

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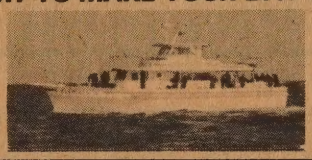

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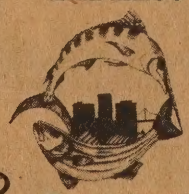

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on Friday. An exploratory trip last Thursday evening resulted in a nice catch of 30 blacks up to 6½ lbs.

George Valentine spoke of excellent blackfish to 8½ lbs. in the Eaton's area in the vicinity of Buoys 11B and 24C, brought into **Four Winds Bait & Tackle**. Plenty of blues remain in the Triangle particularly around the OB to 11B Buoys, taking diamond jigs or caught trolling wire. Most fish are in the 2-4 lb. range. A large number of huge bluefish can be found in Cold Spring Harbor under the large schools of bunker, fish in the 10-15 lb. range. For large blues, try outside of Oyster Bay, Huntington Harbor, and Northport. George was astounded by the large number of healthy flounders, to 1 lb., caught last week off the Centerport and Huntington docks, a hopeful indication of good things to come. On the striper scene, regulars have a steady pick of stripers to 16 lbs. fishing worms on the Triangle. The keeper ratio has been very good in deep water, not good in shallow spots.

East Setauket resident Don Cook tried a rocky spot off Old Field Point where 46 blackfish took his bait. The largest was 11 lbs.

Sal Gattusso of **Suttler LTD** in **Port Jefferson** suggests trying 20 feet of water off Old Field Point for blackfish. Shore bound anglers were very busy with small flounders, porgies, and snappers fishing near the ferry over the weekend. Very large porgies are hitting clams off Cranes Neck, the trick is to fish running water, deep, using 8-10 oz. sinkers to keep bottom. Sal has a large supply of fiddlers on hand.

Vinnie and John Maiorana trolled these blues of 17½ and 16 lbs. at Target Rock on umbrella rigs. They were weighed at Four Winds Tackle in Huntington.

John at **Caraftis Fishing Station** remarked on the quantity of large blues caught on bunker in Port Jeff Harbor, White Beach, the Port Jeff Village Beach, and East Beach. Small schools of very large bunker are holding the blues in the harbor. Gordon Thompson weighed in a 16 lb. blue, Gus Poulus caught blues of 14 and 16 lbs. Blackfishing is getting better daily at Cranes Neck, Old Field Point, Port Jeff Inlet(west side), and Middle Grounds.

Barbara Davenport at **Ralphs Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** told me about lots of bonita close to the beach late last week, along with big blues. Anglers are fishing inside Mt. Sinai Harbor, near the boat moorings for small porgies and flounders to one pound, when weather prohibits taking a boat into the Sound. On Thursday, Ralph Davenport, with friends Chris, John, and Joe, fished the northeast side of Middle Grounds for blackfish. The group returned with 80 blacks the largest, caught by Ralph, topped the scales at a whopping 14 lbs.

Bill at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that the Shoreham pipeline is a hotbed of blackfish. One customer fished only 2 hours and loaded up with over 20 blacks to 9 lbs. Bill has a steady supply of fiddlers and greencrabs.

NORTH FORK

Captain George Porter has been into very good porgy fishing at New London. On Saturday, although conditions were a little tough because of the weather, everyone on the **Brand X** caught fish, most porgies are large to 3 lbs.

The **Peconic Star** is enjoying supertrips on porgies and blackfish. Wednesday was an especially good trip fishing the southwest reef. Most anglers had at least ¾ bucket full of large porgies with blackfish to 7 lbs. Readers will remember that last year porgies were in heavy until November 6th!

Capt. Bellows was heavy into flounder, fish to 1½ pounds, fishing Orient and Petty's Bight on the **Prime Time II**. Good blackfish spots include the east side of Plum Island and Gull Island according to Capt. Bellows. Capt. Ciccotto did not sail over the weekend because of sea conditions, however he remarked that bluefish, all you want, are in Plum Gut and all the rips (the Race, Pigeon Rip, etc.) along with increasing numbers of stripped bass, some pretty large.

The **Nancy Ann** is loading up with blues, with anglers usually calling for mercy by 10 am.

A potential world's record blackfish was caught on the **Blue Albatross** on Wednesday by Maria Raycroft, a member of the Lady Reelers Fishing Club. The fish, Weighed at **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** at 14 lbs. 2 ozs. Maria has submitted the fish to the IGFA for a women's world record on 30 lb. test line.

Ace Cottrel says the best time to fish the Greenlawns is on the incomming tide, while outgoing tide is best at the Brickyards for blackfish. Flounders to 2 lbs. were brought into the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** by Joe Red and Ralph DeMahltaris on Sunday. Clams and clam chum did the trick, fishing at Derring Harbor. Flounders are plentiful at Orient, both the bay side and the Sound where the draggers can't work. Drifting has been the method at Conklin Point (Pipe Cove) for flounders. Long Beach flounders have been wiped out by draggers. Try for blackfish at the Orient light house and off the old Orient Point fishing station, fish from 4-9 pounds have been reported. Plum Gut is loaded with blues, with alot of bass. White bucktails have been a big item with bass fishermen!

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The Island's beaches took a real blasting as Hurricane Josephine neared our part of the coast. For-

Mike Jacobs caught this big largemouth on a Jelly Worm in Laurel Lake, Mattituck. It weighed 6¾ lbs. at Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

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tunately, her abrupt turn to the east spared us any more serious beach erosion. And while the vast majority of surfmen spent the weekend doing other things, there were fish caught at Cedar Beach and along a good portion of the North Shore. Most of it consisted of big blues. Blues up to 20¼ pounds (taken by our own Bill Muller) gave casters an excuse to brave the elements at Cedar while teen size blues took bait and plugs from Smithtown Bay to Horton's Point.

Something to keep in mind for the upcoming weekend is the New York Surf Fishing Derby slated for this coming weekend. Check the ad for details and be sure to register by 6PM Friday. It should be a fun affair and there have been plenty of big blues in the area.

Prior to all of the wind and rough surf, there was some decent action with blues and weaks in the Jones Beach area. Friday morning, Pat Amoroso and a friend had weaks of 14 and 7 pounds and a mess of 12-18 pound blues on bunker in the "Jones Beach area". This report filed via **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**. Sunday's wind was no deterrent to Tom Bonura who fished the West End Jones Beach surf in mid-afternoon. According to Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle** in **Lynbrook**, Tom checked in bass of 8, 11 and 13½ pounds. They were taken on Hopkin's and Needlefish plugs.

There were more than a few big bass in the Jones Beach area on Saturday night. Jason Colby who always seem to find stripers when everyone else is preoccupied with blues or weaks did it again over the weekend. Fishing rigged eels, this inveterate caster drilled 7 bass from 29 to 37 pounds out of the suds.

Cedar Beach produced a steady pick of blues on bait Sunday morning while plugs accounted for most of the action on Saturday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Over at Democrat Point, big blues blitzed the beach on Thursday and Friday mornings. Marty Beer did a good job on the fish on Thursday while on Friday, Ken Kiseli along on a charter with myself, took 5 of the big slammers on Pencil Poppers.

Carl Piazza checked in a 13 pound striper and a pair of big blues at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** Saturday morning. They were taken locally on plugs.

From Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** came word of lots of 2-5 pound blues in the surf east and west of Smith Point on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, some big blues moved into the inlet area but casters were told to leave the beach due to rising tides and a rough surf. Tom Pennino had 3 teen size choppers before having to leave the beach. On Wednesday afternoon, Shirley Ausinger worked a tin slow and deep to take an 11 pound striper. Ozzie VonHelmond checked in with a 12 pound striper but it came from a

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North Shore beach.

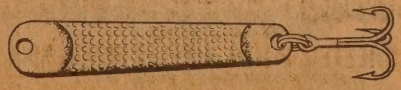
Out at **Montauk**, hordes of blues continued to work the south side beaches, especially between the towers at Gurney's through Thursday. According to Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** a couple of 12-15 pound stripers were culled from among the blues. The effects of the hurricane completely wiped out any fishing at the point over the weekend. Jay Griffin did click with a 37.14 pound striper on Thursday night. It was taken up front.

It may come as a surprise to some but a number of North Shore beaches were alive with fish during the NE blow on the weekend. John Cuzzo who is more frequently found running his Captree charter boat **Afterglo** found time on Saturday to take 4 big blues from the Smithtown Bay shore. Twelve year old Scott Barron of Port Jeff fished the Village Beach on Saturday night and took a 13 pound blue on a bunker chunk. There was a report that bluefish were in the wash at Cedar Beach (North Shore) on Saturday night. Most were in the 7 pound range.

From **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Stan Hentschel said that the number of bass along local beaches continues to rise with a number of 9-12 pounders being taken near Hagerman's Landing and east to Wading River. Big blues were taken from the beach over the weekend here as well. Frank Uchman had a 14½ pounder at Shoreham while Ron Setencar nailed a 12 pounder on a bottle plug at Hagerman's early Saturday morning. Ricky Lippert weighed a 17½ pound chopper at **Sutler Bait and Tackle** which was taken from a Rocky Point Beach on Sunday afternoon.

Out on the North Fork Ace Cottrel reported blues up to 16 pounds taken on bunker chunks at Horton's Point. There was a mix of bass and blues at Mulford Point and at Orient on mackerel finish plugs through the weekend.

Before closing this week's report, I would like to extend a special thanks to "Bucktail" Sal Pantaleone who saved my skin on the Cedar Bar Saturday night. Its not the first time that Sal has come to the aid of a fellow caster and this fine gentleman is a credit to all who fish the beach.



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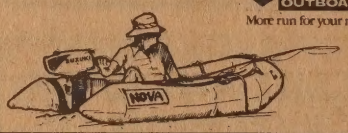

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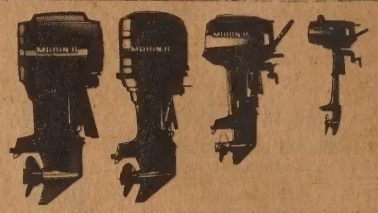

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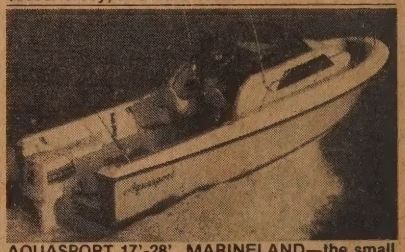

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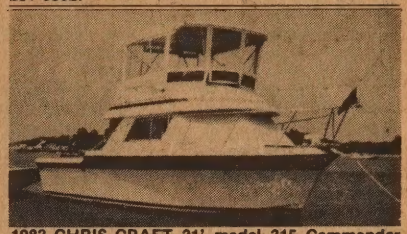

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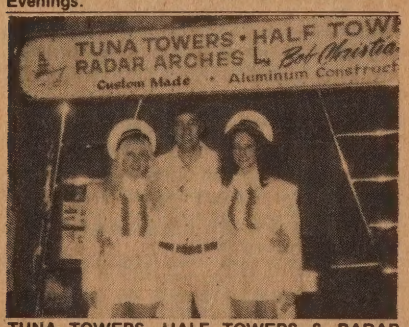

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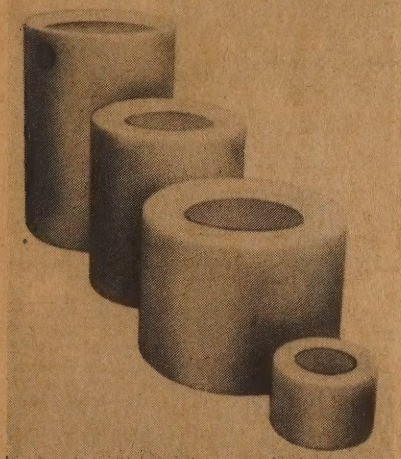

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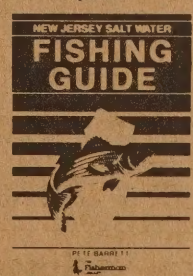

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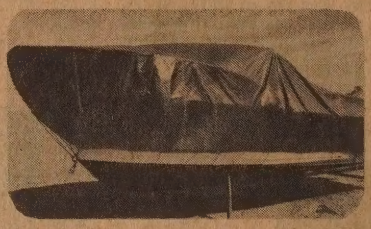

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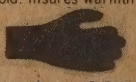

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